

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

The Franchise Affair
From palaces and prisons come classes of people in Britain who cannot vote tomorrow. Modern Times talks to the disenfranchised few. Sport's outcasts David Miller continues his series on the sporting world's boycott of South Africa.
Hard left
Bernard Levin argues that the real threat to democracy in Britain comes not from the Communist Party or the Militant Tendency, but from the quiet men of 'the fascist left'.
Mailer's plunge
Norman Mailer's new novel about ancient Egypt and modern America is published. The Times critic finds it a plunge to disaster.

Massacre Nazi jailed for life

An East German judge jailed Heinz Barth, a former Nazi officer, for life for war crimes, including the Oradour massacre. A defence plea for leniency on the ground that he had been under orders was dismissed. Page 6

FINANCIAL TIMES

Talks intended to get the strike-bound Financial Times back into publication before polling day were continuing apparently with little prospect of a settlement. Mirror Group Newspapers has quadrupled its profits to £8.1m. Pages 2, 17, 18

Bar entry limit

For the first time the number of students entering for Bar training in England and Wales is to be restricted. The reason is the big increases in numbers seeking entry. Page 2.

Peers move out

Two neighbouring peers are to give up their family homes because of financial pressures. Lord Devon is to rent Powderham Castle while Lord Clifford of Chudleigh is to move to Guernsey. Page 3



Summit hope

All-night talks were taking place in Addis Ababa to win over a number of boycotting states of the Organization of African Unity. A spokesman said it was proposed that the summit would open today. Earlier report, page 7

Trafalgar fails

Trafalgar House tried to raise its stake in P & O to 14.9 per cent but failed as P & O's shares rose 2p above the bid price of 207p. Page 17

Middlesex top

Middlesex, last year's county champions, moved to the top of the table after beating Kent by four wickets at Dartford. This was despite Underwood who took six for 24. Page 24

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Letters: On the election, from Mr M. Haseck and others; nuclear control, from Professor M. Gowling
Leading articles: Alliance campaign; Falklands and the election; Secret services
Features, pages 12-14

David Watt says Mrs Thatcher has been allowed to get away with it. Should the next airport land in central London? Jock Bruce-Gardyne's election column. The young unemployed. Spectrum: Disaster at Bluff Cove. Wednesday Page: Learning to be a parent. The Times Cook: Valium-addiction; Alan Frank's Diary
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Jenkins and Steel split over future of nuclear deterrent

- A rift has appeared between Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr David Steel over the future of Britain's nuclear deterrent.
- Latest opinion polls show Conservatives heading for landslide, with the Alliance and Labour battling for a poor second place.
- Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, offered voters in the Labour heartlands a share in power by electing Conservative MPs.

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Jenkins, the Alliance prime minister-designate, yesterday exposed a fundamental rift with Mr David Steel over the future of the British nuclear deterrent.

Both party leaders told an Alliance press conference that the Polaris force should be included in merged strategic and intermediate nuclear disarmament talks at Geneva.

But Mr Jenkins then added that if those talks failed to produce a breakthrough, an Alliance government would keep an independent British deterrent as a last resort weapon, for the foreseeable future.

There is no mention of an independent deterrent in the joint manifesto of the two parties and Mr Steel has previously insisted, in agreement with Dr David Owen, that Polaris should be under Nato control as part of the Western deterrent.

The Liberal leader said in a key speech on December 16: "Liberals have always opposed the concept of an independent nuclear deterrent, believing it to be either surplus to collective Western action or useless when challenged independently. I have never found convincing the argument that 'tearing off the arm' of the Soviet bear would be a comforting thought.

Heseltine appeals to Labour heartlands

By Anthony Bevins and Philip Webster

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, last night put a new twist on poll forecasts of a Conservative landslide by offering voters in the Labour heartlands "a passport to the corridors of power" - the election of Tory MPs for their constituencies.

He said in a speech in Birmingham: "This election now provides the British with a little-perceived but deeply important opportunity.

The advances the Conservatives are now making provide an opportunity for the whole of Britain to share more fully in the power of the next Conservative Government. It is important that they should.

"The responsible use of that power by a strong Conservative Government with Conservative MPs arguing their cases within the party of government itself, offers a prospect of national unity of vivid proportions.

To the people of the Midlands, the North, Scotland and Wales, all of us who wish to see the regions speak with a loud voice, anyone who seeks to narrow the divide between north and south, the Conservative Party offers a passport to the corridors of power."

Mr Heseltine said that Conservative MPs for the inner cities could speak for council tenants who were regarded as "politically-harnessed" second

Jenkin predicts drop in interest rates

From Clifford Longley, Peterborough

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday that he expected a prompt post-election drop in interest rates which would stimulate industry. He told local business while campaigning in Peterborough that "if there is a surge in the £ after the election we can use interest rates to bring it down to more realistic levels."

Mr Jenkin is strongly tipped as a candidate to become Chancellor of the Exchequer in the expected post-election Cabinet reshuffle. His comments on a possible rise in the value of

Mrs Thatcher is still on course for a spectacular landslide victory, according to the latest opinion polls, while Labour and the Alliance are battling for a poor second place.

According to the predictions of Downing Street's own computer programme and the personal estimate of Mr Robert Worcester, the leading pollster of MORI, the Tories are set for an overall majority of 252. Such a victory would claim the seats of six SDP MPs, including Mr

Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

at the same time it precipitated national suicide."

He told The Times, after he had made that speech, that he had reached agreement with Dr Owen "on the no-independence and the assigning to Nato."

Mr Jenkins said yesterday:

"We are not wedded to an independent British deterrent, but equally we do not believe in

careful formula so often used by

Mr Michael Foot during the election campaign: 'The position in the manifesto is the position which both parties have endorsed. Of course we want to phase out Polaris as soon as possible within the context of bilateral negotiations with the Soviet Union.'

He added: "There is no question of unilaterally phasing out Polaris. It is a question of negotiating Polaris away in return for reductions on the Soviet side."

The Liberal leader made no comment on independent use of the deterrent, but it is understood that he stands by the views expressed last December;

a faithful reflection of Liberal Party sensitivities on the issue.

The similarities with Labour's defence difficulties are remarkable; even to the point of Mr Steel reflecting Mr Foot and Mr Enoch Powell's views about "national suicide". He also evidently feels that the manifesto can be used to cover the underlying divide which persists between himself, Dr Owen and Mr Jenkins.

Ironically, Mr Jenkins volunteered a statement on Alliance defence and disarmament policies at the start of the press conference, in order to criticize "contradictions" in Conservative policy and "confusions" in Labour policy.

When Mr Steel was asked about Polaris, he resorted to the

just throwing our weapons away because we don't think that is the way to achieve disarmament."

Pressed about the Alliance's position against a Trident replacement of Polaris, Mr Jenkins insisted: "We are going to continue with our independent deterrent for a substantial period ahead, and I have always said that in the meantime we will consider what happens so far as the general world, political and military situation develops."

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Pressed about the Alliance's position against a Trident

Nissan resists Thatcher request to reveal decision on car plant

By David Young

The Japanese Nissan Motor Company has resisted a direct request from Mrs. Margaret Thatcher to announce whether it will build a car production plant in Britain.

Nissan will now come under pressure, with other sectors of Japanese industry, from the CBI to do more to reduce the trade imbalance between Japan, Britain and the EEC.

Mrs. Thatcher took the opportunity at the Williamsburg economic summit to ask Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, to ask Nissan to make up its mind about its planned investment in Britain.

Mr. Nakasone passed on Mrs. Thatcher's request to a specially convened Nissan board meeting, chaired by Mr. Takeshi Ishihara, the company president.

The Nissan board reaffirmed its previous statements that no decision has been taken and Mr. Ishihara added: "We could not reach a final conclusion yet on the project and are still studying its feasibility."

The future of the Nissan

project in Britain as an election issue has clearly embarrassed the car company and the direct involvement of Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Nakasone has added to the company's discomfort.

Reports that Nissan would abandon the project of a Labour election victory led to Britain's withdrawal from the EEC have been officially denied by Nissan in Japan and by Lord Marsh, its British adviser.

However, Nissan's serious about its intention of investing £500m in a new plant, has already been signalled within the Japanese industrial community. Mr. Isamu Kawai, head of the UK project team, has in the past two weeks been promoted to executive managing director of the company, a move seen as a prelude to his moving to Britain to oversee the building of a new factory.

In addition, Nissan plans to send a management team to have talks at civil service level in Whitehall by the end of this month, and is to spend £22m on a parts centre, for Europe at Amsterdam.

Cockfield explains council threat

By David Walker

The Labour-controlled London and metropolitan councils have brought the threat of abolition on their own heads by their extravagance, Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, told council treasurers yesterday.

He said that the Greater London Council, the Inner London Education Authority and the six metropolitan counties were responsible for two-thirds of all the council overspending during 1983-84.

The local government financial crisis could be blamed on 14 councils, all Labour. They were spending at a level 25 per cent above the Government's objective estimate of what they needed; they had raised their rates in April by 8 per cent on average, more than twice the inflation rate.

Lord Cockfield's address shocked the treasurers who are meeting in Eastbourne at the annual conference of their professional body, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

US spends £45m on air base

The United States Air Force is spending £45m extending and improving the base at Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, where a squadron of EF-11 jets are due to arrive in January.

The plans include new hardened shelters for the 18 planes, which are filled with radar-jamming equipment to prolong the life of the 70 F-11 nuclear-capable bombers at the base, which are now vulnerable to missile attack.

The new aircraft have been opposed by CND and the peace camp outside the base, who say the F-11s will be turned into a "first strike" force. In demonstrations outside the base last week 752 people were arrested.

The base has already been extended by 30 acres to take the new aircraft, and construction projects underway or planned include a new school, housing, communications and refuelling facilities and a new dormitory.

The arrival of the squadron is expected to involve another 1,300 USAF servicemen and their families living at and around the base.

He said proposed reorganization would be "enormously costly".



Easier chair: Mr Ted Barber, a teacher at Shrewsbury School, demonstrating a wheelchair recliner designed by two of his pupils, John Freeman, (left) and Ingram Legge.

Mr Freeman and Mr Legge, now both aged 19, won the BP Challenge to Youth competition in the International Year of Disabled People, the Design Council Schools Award and the Young



Engineer of Britain title with the prototype was designed and assembled at Shrewsbury school, and will now be assembled, upholstered and packaged by disabled workers at the Stow Shire Shire Workshop in Gloucestershire, under the brand name "Iava-retro".

Royalties from each sale will go towards funding scholarships for children of disabled people to attend Shrewsbury School. (Photographs by John Voss.)

Limit put on entry to legal training

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Entry to the Bar in England and Wales is to be artificially restricted for the first time in its history by means of a ceiling placed on the numbers starting training.

Students admitted to the one-year vocational course which all would-be barristers must undertake before obtaining pupilage is to be limited to 950 in a year. Numbers will be annually reviewed.

Previously, market forces such as availability of work and seats in chambers have been the only determining factors on numbers who were qualified to enter and financially able to do so.

The decision by the Senate of the Inns of Court is, reported in its annual statement published yesterday, to regard as of capital importance to the whole profession, the statement says, and seems to mark the end to the unrestricted "open-door" policy of the profession.

The restriction on numbers comes in the wake of a limit on entry qualifications agreed last year. From this October graduates entering the one-year

Hospitals to stop use of drug

By Richard Ford

Police leave and rest days have been cancelled in Northern Ireland as the security forces go on alert to combat any increase in terrorism during the final hours of the election campaign.

The Committee for the Safety of Medicine has issued a written warning to all British hospitals against the long-term use of Hypnotin in the treatment of the seriously ill.

The move follows an investigation by Professor Iain Ledingham, head of the Glasgow unit. His results show that the death rate in his unit has increased from 22 per cent to 44 per cent since the drug was introduced as a sedative in 1981.

Professor Ledingham's findings have been supported by doctors at 70 intensive treatment units throughout Britain and in Holland and Germany.

Dr James Kerr, administrative head of the Glasgow unit said the drug had been used for some time as a general anaesthetic, but that its manufacturer, Janssen Pharmaceuticals of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, had recommended it for long-term sedation in critical cases.

The manufacturers said they were highly concerned about Professor Ledingham's findings and had launched a through investigation in conjunction with intensive care units in Britain and Europe. It was emphasized that the drug was under scrutiny only for the treatment of the critically ill.

Both sides in the machine room dispute were called to the London offices of Acas the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, yesterday, to negotiate the wage claim involving 18 machine minders which has led to nearly 300 members of the craft print union, the National Graphical Association, being called out on strike.

Management and union negotiators met briefly during the day, but the likelihood of the newspaper coming out before polling day receded as the hours passed without the emergence of a draft deal on pay and manning in the machine room.

The two sides had few direct contacts during the lengthy peace process, and conciliation officials were shuttling between management and union with different ideas for a return to work.

The NGA has brought out on strike all its members at the newspaper in response to the dismissal of machine minders and other craft print workers who struck in sympathy. Since then, the union has called out all its key personnel involved in the transmission of copy to Frankfurt, West Germany, where the European edition is published.

At the request of the NGA, the International Graphical Federation has also issued a "blocking" notice to its affiliates in Western Europe, to prevent Continental printers bringing out the newspaper for distribution in Britain.

At issue is the NGA's demand for an increase in pay from £304.67 a week to £322, and extra shifts to accommodate an increased print run. Management has condemned the dispute as "a political issue", and Mrs Thatcher has been asked to introduce legislation to correct the "imbalance of power" between unions and management in Fleet Street.

Sup. David Coggin, said WPC Fosbury tried to reason with him.

He was inconsolable. He said his girl friend had just married another man.

Miss Fosbury positioned herself so that she could grab him if he jumped.

He did jump and she held him for about ten seconds until PC Marr arrived.

She showed considerable courage. The man could have pulled her over the bridge as well.

Ulster goes on alert for election

By Richard Ford

Police leave and rest days have been cancelled in Northern Ireland as the security forces go on alert to combat any increase in terrorism during the final hours of the election campaign.

Twenty thousand members of the police, Ulster Defence Regiment and the Army will be on duty on polling day, and in the last few days there has been a noticeable increase in security force activity across the province, with more vehicle checkpoints and surveillance by the RUC of party headquarters.

Protection for prominent public figures and politicians has also increased, with plain clothes officers shadowing many of the province's leading Unionist politicians on the campaign trail. Last October, hours before the Assembly poll, bombs exploded outside the Official Unionist Party headquarters.

Cab driver ran down his wife

John Price, aged 50, a minicab driver, of Mackenzie Road, Holloway, London, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after admitting attempting to murder his estranged wife.

Mr James Miskin QC, the Recorder, said that Mrs Carol Price, aged 36, was only slightly injured, but her mother, Mrs Ade Middleton, suffered extensive fractures when Price ran them down in his car outside their home in Corporation Street, Holloway.

Airline offers non-stop flights to Hongkong

By Michael Ball, Transport Editor

The first non-stop flights from Britain to Hongkong are to be started by Cathay Pacific next month with the help of a new fuel-efficient Rolls-Royce engine. The 7,500-mile flight, passing over southern Russia and cutting a corner over Turkey and Iran, but negotiations between Russia and the British Government over that are still continuing.

The new non-stop service will at first operate only on Saturdays; Cathay's existing daily one-stop service calling at Bahrain will continue. Leaving Gatwick at 10 pm on Saturday and arriving at Hongkong at 6 pm on Sunday, it is designed to meet a growing demand from businessmen to reach Hongkong in time to start work there fresh on Monday morning, the airline said.

Sale room

Prints sold for £78,345

By Huon Mallalieu

A woman who has been offered £600 by a dealer for an album containing 18 prints of Swiss views, witnessed their sale at Christie's yesterday for a total of £78,345. She had rejected the dealer's offer because she wanted to use the proceeds to purchase a three-wheel car.

Eighteenth century Swiss coloured etchings are very much in demand, and these, collected by Colonel and Mrs Frederick Page in the early nineteenth century, were particularly fine impressions, protected from fading by being kept in an album.

The most expensive, at £14,040, was "Vue de Genve prise des Eaux Vives" by H L L'Eveque, published about 1770 (£4,000 to £6,000).

Yesterdays offered arms and armour, making £60,942 with 6.8 per cent bought in. The second day of the book sale at Sotheby's produced £38,806 with 2.5 per cent bought in.

Oversized selling prices

Science report

Scientists hail new guidance system

By Bill Johnstone

Electronics Correspondent

Research scientists at British Aerospace in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, have developed a guidance system for missiles which they believe is a technical first.

To provide the accurate balancing and navigation of "agile missiles" travelling at subsonic and supersonic speeds, the Stevenage technicians, comprised of a team of mechanical engineers, electronic engineers and physicists, have developed what they have termed the Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) concept.

The IMU system uses specially designed and positioned gyros attached to the body of the missile, called strapdown gyros, and robust accelerometers to control the movement of the weapon and its flight path.

The system, which has just emerged, is the result of over four years' research at Stevenage and now the scientists have taken the design to the development stage when they will make bespoke systems for different weapons.

The British Aerospace design is what is termed a mid-course guidance system, which means that the weapon can be controlled by some autopilot mechanism after it has been fired and before it makes contact with the target. The demands on such instrumentation are quite considerable.

According to British Aerospace scientists: "The accuracy required of the inertial sensors depend on the application. The demands placed on them, however, are considerable. For example, an agile missile can roll with peak body rates as high as 400 degrees a second and is still required to arrive at a very small target area to allow seeker head lock-on to occur".

"We are fairly sure we are the leaders", the BAe scientists say. That confidence is based on the fact that they are harnessing the latest technology using electronics and microprocessor control.

The signals from the gyros and the accelerometers are converted from the analogues to digital to be processed by the on-board microprocessor. The gyro is minimized assisting substantially the compact design of the guidance system.

The Stevenage design is the latest from the industry which is attempting to satisfy the growing demand of weapon manufacturers, and their customers, for "fire and forget" guidance systems. The accelerometer measures the rate of change of speed and is used as the basis for the navigational system.

The new system is versatile, its inventors claim and can be used in torpedoes, aircraft and for land vehicle navigation.

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Private schools increase pupil share despite large rise in charges

By Frances Gibb

Private schools have increased their share of the school population despite a 10 per cent rise in fees in the past year, the rate of inflation, according to a survey published yesterday.

But independent head teachers said yesterday that they did not wish private schools to benefit from further cuts in funding on state schools. They could threaten the private sector's survival.

The survey, by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis), shows that the numbers of pupils at independent schools dropped this year 3,000, or 1 per cent, a fall in numbers for the second year running because of a dip in birthrate.

But there had been a much larger drop, estimated at 3.2 per cent, or 250,000, in the state sector in the 12 months up to yesterday.

Independent schools increased their fees by an average 10 per cent in 1982, often to improve staff-pupil ratios, now 17 and 1 to 15 respectively for boys' and girls' senior schools.

Vietnamese grudge killed 7, court told

Two Vietnamese refugees carried out a revenge attack on an illegal Soho gambling club, starting with a fire in which seven people died, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Only Mr Johnny Ploof, aged 21, survived the fire in a basement club in Gerrard Street, the centre of London's Chinese communities. Mr Roy Mot, for the prosecution, said:

"Vu Linh Nguyen, aged 24, of nights House, Huntsman Street, Walworth, and Van Phanh Phan, aged 21 of Rutland House, Milner Estate, Woolwich, both south London, deny arson and murder. Both arrived in Britain in 1979.

On July 17, a number of Vietnamese, including Van Phanh Phan, were gambling at the club, Mr Mot said. One of them won £70 and the party became excited and noisy. An argument began and one of the Vietnamese was asked to leave.

The others followed and a fight started in the street. "The and of Vietnamese marched off down Gerrard Street, armed themselves with sticks and broken bottles and returned to

the club making a lot of noise and banging on parked cars."

When the police were called, the Vietnamese disappeared and the owners of the club decided to close for the night.

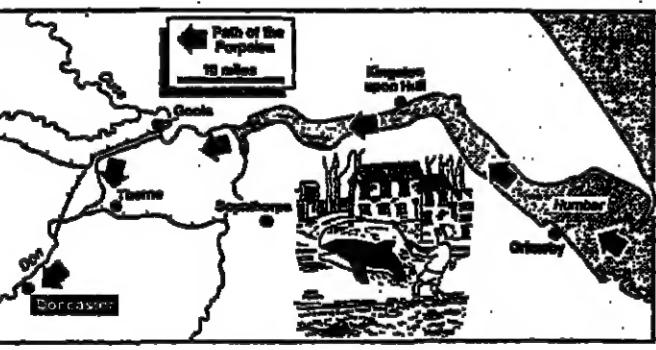
At 1.30 am, the eight remaining people, all connected to the club, were preparing to go home.

It was then that the Vietnamese reappeared, bent, as became terribly obvious, on the most savage revenge," Mr Mot said. They returned in a car owned by Vu Linh Nguyen and entered the club with sticks and a can of petrol.

The occupants of the club were held at bay while petrol was poured over the gaming tables and area inside the door, and the Vietnamese set fire to it as they ran out", he said.

There was only one exit and seven of the eight men inside were trapped and killed. They included three Hong Kong Chinese who ran the club, the cleaner, a student and a Vietnamese who slept there.

Mr Ploof ran out of the club and later identified both defendants to the police. The trial continues today.



Porpoise that swam to fame is moved on

A porpoise was taken into protective custody yesterday for causing traffic jams on a busy road. Later it was taken by road to the North Sea where the South Yorkshire police felt it would be more at home. It was last seen by coastguards at Bridlington, who reported it to be "swimming quite happily out to sea".

The porpoise was first seen after it swam 80 miles inland from the sea at the weekend in the River Don at Doncaster. The police and the RSPCA decided to leave it alone, but the public decided it was a big attraction and thousands of cars, containing families

equipped with binoculars and cameras, poured into the town, creating traffic jams.

Early yesterday the police telephoned Flamingo Land Zoo, near Malton, North Yorkshire, and three experts were soon on their way.

They took with them Gallops of Lenolin and an inflatable rubber boat to give the porpoise a comfortable bed after its capture.

Mr Neville Wilby, the zoo curator, hauled the porpoise out of the water into the boat. On reaching the riverbank, the creature was kept cool and comfortable with the Lenolin and started his journey

abolition of private schools more likely, Mr Ellis added.

Another head teacher, Mrs Pauline Mathias, president of the Girls' Schools Association and headmistress of More House School, London, said:

"We do not want more spending on assisted places at the expense of the maintained sector, but more money generally for that sector".

The survey showed that although the number of pupils helped by the Government's assisted places scheme in its second year rose to 5,100, that was offset by 3,000 fewer places taken up by local authorities at the schools, at 16,930.

A number of pupils left their schools at 15-plus to go either to state schools and sixth-form colleges or, in the case of girls, to boys' schools, although that trend is thought to be declining.

Independent schools benefited from a healthy, prosperous education system as a whole, he said. "If the maintained sector is starved of further resources, the difference between the two sets becomes greater and greater and the politics of envy that much sharper." That could make

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Fringe parties fight 300 seats in search of new political dawn

By Richard Evans

At first sight, Wally the Wellie, campaigning for subsidized cheese and pickle sandwiches on behalf of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party in Ester, has little in common with Clifford Slapper, the Socialist Party of Great Britain's token general election candidate standing in Islington, Southgate.

But in the world of political opinion polls, the seismic political gap between "Mr" Wellie, Mr Clifford and the other 300-odd fringe candidates standing tomorrow counts for nothing as they all gain "automatic entry" to an exclusive "party" euphemistically known as Others.

On a more practical level they are united by being electoral failures. The bounds of political speculation do not have to be stretched to realize that none of the minority candidates will be elected to Parliament; virtually all will lose their £150 deposit, and many will fail to pick a vote for every pound lost. So why do they do it?

As in some of the bigger parties, there is an ideological split within the Others. Apart from the Monster parties (swelled by the addition of the Green Chicken Alliance), Freddie's Alternative Medicine Party, the Fancy Dress Party and the Nobody Party, there is a second group that advances "serious" policies and manifestos, and which foresees electoral success, albeit some years away.

Out on its own this time is the Ecology Party, which is fielding 108 candidates. It is probably the one minority group taken seriously by the average voter. The party's main aim is to achieve 5 per cent of the vote on Thursday. That

would put them on a par with the Greens in West Germany, who have 27 MPs thanks to proportional representation, as the Ecology Party is quick to point out.

"If the SDP/Liberal Alliance successfully demanded the introduction of PR we could then take off in quite a big way," Mr Colin McGrady, a member of the party's campaign team, says.

"In many ways we are in the same position as the Labour Party was at the end of the last century when faced with the Tory and Liberal stranglehold on Parliament. Suddenly we got their first seat and they never looked back."

Ironically, the Revolutionary Communist Party, which is putting up four candidates, has discovered that money can be made out of elections. "You can raise as much money locally as you spend. We made a profit out of running a candidate in the Bermondsey by-election," Mr Pat Roberts says.

Not that cash is the electoral incentive for the RCP. Like all the other "serious" contenders, it is preparing for the new political dawn which, it says, is just round the corner. "We are doing this for the future. We don't think the present electoral system and balance of party forces can sustain things for long. People will look for new alternatives as a result of what is going on."

Also offering a distinctly different choice is the Workers' Revolutionary Party, with its 21 candidates. Unlike the rest of the fringe, it does not automatically assume defeat. "We do not go into it expecting candidates not to be elected and we do not go into the campaign expecting our candidates will lose their deposits," Mr Corin Redgrave.

Paisley band hits the road

From Richard Ford, Belfast

For the third time that evening the voice called for quiet while the Loyalist band struck up and the unmistakable sound of the "big man" led everyone in God Save the Queen.

The tune was destined to be sung with unashamed fervour at every stop on a gruelling schedule of canvassing by the Rev. Ian Paisley on a damp misty night in his North Antrim constituency. Around him the uniformed Royal Ulster Constabulary men were at attention together with the armed, plain clothes officers who shadow his every move.

A small group of working class men and women sang with intensity, cars on the main road halted and only a few teenage

sing as he marches at the head of a band. He greets constituents with a wave and a shake of his rolled umbrella.

Are they drawn by the band or to catch a glimpse of the man who loudly proclaims himself leader of Ulster's Protestants?

It is probably a bit of both but Mr Paisley is an old trooper who knows that few Ulstermen can resist a band. The smaller estate is never missed, thought in the obviously middle-class areas he restricts himself to driving in a car urging people to support him from a loudhailer.

In the small villages of the Bannside, where he began his political career, Ulster's loyalty is proclaimed for all to see. The kerbstones are painted red, white and blue and the red hand of Ulster is often painted on the road.

Mr Paisley enjoys his canvassing

The core of his message is aimed at Pearce McMahon, the Provisional Sinn Fein candidate whom he castigates as the "Ballymoney bomber". His voice rising, Mr Paisley shouts: "Now, in the heartland of loyal County Antrim, this IRA frontman is standing. I want you to help me to devastate him at this election."

The canvass finishes with a reminder to everyone to vote for him as the man who is for God and Ulster prepared to defend the faith and freedom of "our beloved province."

Then he is off, a cavalcade of cars, many bearing the words "Jesus saves" on their windscreen, travelling to the next village.

It is a punishing pace, but he is recognised as a formidable campaigner who has built a powerful base which should secure him another five years at Westminster on Thursday.

Mr John Mallon, media director of Young & Rubicam, was more to the point. "The only campaign I have really been aware of is the Conservative Party campaign, which I regard as superb. The copy is hard-hitting and I like the trenchant way it has spelt out a number of issues which seems to reflect the Thatcher approach."

The chief dissenter is Mr Tim Delaney, creative partner of Legans Delaney, and another former Labour supporter now floating in the direction of the SDP.

"All the campaigns have been disappointing. The SDP posters were found to be at best confusing and at worst offensive. The Labour campaign is a reflection of what the party wants to say rather than what the public wants to hear. It is about pessimism and gloom."

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A crucial factor in the Bradford West campaign will be which party attracts the ethnic minority vote, predominantly Pakistanis, who with Indians, West Indians and Polish communities form almost 30 per cent of the electorate. While employment runs at a general average of 15 per cent some parts of Bradford West have nearly 50 per cent male unemployment because the textile industry, which attracted many immigrants to a better-paid life, has slumped so severely.

Community leaders complain that it is 143 times harder for a young Asian to get work than a young white. This compounded the problems between the communities. Some Asians were offended by the Tory "black-white" poster, others dismissed it as irrelevant. There is some Conservative support among the businessmen but individuals I met felt that the immigration and nationality laws introduced by the Government discriminated against them. Others who would give

support to Mr Lyons would take some convincing that an SDP vote ran the risk of letting the Tory in through a divided Labour vote.

All this spells a difficult contest for Mr Lyons and for Mr Stephen Day, a safe representative fighting the seat for the Tories. His supporters are encouraged by the strong Conservative vote in 1979. Divisions in the Labour Party and the alternative offered by

Mr Day dismissed any chance of Mr Lyons abandoning with a major share of Labour votes.

The real fight, he said, was between himself and the Labour Party. "Between a government that has stuck to its guns with courage and a divided right-wing dominated Labour Party."

● W Midlands survey ● The advertising war ● Paisley profile

Saatchis win the advertisers' vote

By David Howson

If the scent of election victory is already wafting around Downing Street, it is positively overwhelming in the environs of Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency contracted to handle the account which aims to return the Conservatives to No 10.

"We conduct fairly consistent political activity. If we did not take part in elections we would not be regarded as a serious political party; I don't think we would consider ourselves as a political party," Mr Gerry Pocock, the party's campaign organiser, says.

"We get quite an encouraging response to our campaign and we increase membership. Most people have not got a clue what our policies are. They have an idea of our image from the media and think we are a sinister manipulative organisation that is controlling CND, and God knows what else."

"Our experience is that when people come into contact with our politics and living communists they get a completely different impression."

At the other end of the political rainbow, the National Front has shrunk its election effort compared to 1979 when 303 candidates stood - and all lost their deposit. This time 60 candidates are espousing the Front's extreme right-wing views.

"We see the whole exercise as building up our organization and membership. We will make a profit out of fighting this election," Mr Michael Salt, the Front's administrative officer, says. "It lets people know we are still very much around."

All the minority parties say they are determined to keep contesting elections. But a £21,000 deposit may finally obliterate the mirage of political glory for the fringe. The present rules are grossly unfair."

All of the major parties refuse to say how much they spend on media campaigns.

Unofficial estimates suggest that the Conservatives' total budget of £20m includes at least £2m for advertising, while nearly half of Labour's £2m budget will go the same way. The Alliance, affected by cash difficulties which have not yet been fully detailed, has virtually abandoned conventional media for posters on the sides of vans.

Mr Nick Grant, Labour's director of publicity, said: "I do not think advertising wins or loses elections. But some of our advertising is aimed at uncertain Labour voters."

Mr Winston Fletcher, chairman of the Ted Bates agency, said: "All the research evidence suggests that advertising is a very peripheral influence, affecting 1 or 2 per cent of voters. It is primarily there to rally the troops rather than to make converts."

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A significant, if as yet little

The Grid Blight FAMOUS FIVE HAVE A MYSTERY TO SOLVE



Regional survey

Disenchantment favours Tories

By Arthur Osman

The Labour Party's failure to convince the 16.4 per cent unemployed of the West Midlands that they have solutions to the region's most crucial issue will probably cost them dearly tomorrow.

Local opinion polls have suggested that up to 13 Labour seats may be lost and despite three visits to the area by Mr Michael Foot and other members of the Shadow Cabinet, there has been little to stem the tide and bolster support.

The failure has been lamentable and the predicted role of the region as one of the election's main cockpit has not materialized. The forecast vote is not divided along the "two nation" line of employed and unemployed as was predicted.

There are a few worse examples in Britain of the extreme effects of the economic deterioration in a once proud and prosperous area.

Labour has failed to provide sufficient answers for its regeneration with a campaign of remarkable sterility and lack of credibility. In particular it has failed to convince the electorate that they have viable plans to raise the vast sums of money necessary to foot the bill to create more jobs.

That Perry Barr might lose Mr Jeffrey Rooker would be sad, but assiduous attention to constituency and other matters such as he and others have shown are unlikely to account

for much in the hours ahead.

The region's only ethnic candidates are both fighting for the Conservatives in Birmingham. However, Mrs Pramila Le Huu at Ladywood and Mr Paul Nichol at Small Heath, both Asian, seem unlikely to get elected in the projected landslide. But it is known that Mrs Le Huu's chances, particularly in persuading many entrepreneurial Asians to her side, have led some Conservative officials to stake modest amounts with their bookmakers on a surprise win.

The Alliance is confident that the movement to them in the poll presages substantial achievements with support generally holding at about 13 per cent. Their best prospect is at Hereford.

Having canvassed 75 per cent of the constituency, Liberals say Labour support has fallen to about 6 per cent. The Alliance also has hopes at Wyre Forest, Shrewsbury and at Atcham, Mid-Shropshire, Ludlow, Nuneaton and The Wrekin.

One Liberal official said: "Very few places south of Stoke-on-Trent are now safe for Labour with their failure to provide real solutions to the unemployed's most pressing problem."

The indispensable aide

By Michael Kalpe

When the David Steel bus turns the corner into the town centre, Lord Chitnis is standing at the driver's side staring ahead like a captain on a ship's bridge.

Pratap Chitnis, who engineered the Liberal Party's success in Croydon 20 years ago, is Mr Steel's right-hand man on the election trail; with a professional assessment of the waiting crowd he decides whether it is going to be a 10 minute, 20 minute or half an hour stop.

For the past week it has been all long stops; in each town the

crowds have exceeded expectations.

"My God it's huge," Lord Chitnis says as a gathering of 500, or sometimes 1,000, is encountered. And as a consequence time has to be made up elsewhere.

The growing crowds are seen as tangible evidence of the increasing popularity of the SDP-Liberal Alliance in the opinion polls and the enthusiastic roadside receptions are understandably boosting the morale of the Liberal leader and his aides.

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Arafat flies to Delhi to seek non-aligned movement's backing

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Yassir Arafat, the beleaguered chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization arrived here yesterday for a swift series of meetings with Mrs Indira Gandhi and her advisers.

The visit bore every sign of having been hastily arranged. Late on Monday evening, the Indian Foreign Ministry declared they did not know whether he was coming or not, and when he arrived from Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, early in the morning he was met by the Prime Minister and Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the External Affairs Minister. But there was no turn out of diplomats, such as marked his last visit here last summer, and no ceremonies.

Observers speculated that Mr Arafat was visiting those leaders who have been closest to him in order to secure their continued support, and to invite their help in reinforcing his position. In

Oradour massacre Nazi is given life

Berlin (Reuters & AP) - An East German judge yesterday jailed for life Heinz Barth, aged 62, a former Nazi officer convicted of war crimes in France and Czechoslovakia. The court dismissed a defence plea for leniency on the ground that Barth was under orders.

"He not only carried out orders and murdered people who had nothing to do with the war, but did so with great commitment, ensuring that his subordinates also fulfilled them precisely," Judge Heinz Hugo

After his day in Delhi, Mr Arafat flew to Aden. At the airport he referred to the internal troubles of the PLO and declared that it was not the first time that Colonel Gaddafi of Libya had tried to interfere in the organization.

Sidon shopkeepers held

Sidon, Lebanon (reuter) - Israeli forces disrupted road and sea transport in Sidon yesterday and detained shopkeepers who had protested on Monday against the Israeli invasion a year ago.

The road disruptions were for security checks, apparently to prevent guerrilla attacks, but two small cargo vessels were

seen being towed from the harbour by Israeli gunboats. One of the ships had just begun unloading cement. Local fishermen said that the Israelis were trying to force southern Lebanon to import only Israeli goods.

Residents said that the Israelis appeared recently to be increasing harassment



'Murderous rifleman': Heinz Barth listens to the judge.

Barth's lawyer, Herr Friederich Wolff, had pleaded in mitigation that Barth had, in part, acted under orders and as a young man was "caught up in the guilt of his people". The judge said if the fact that Barth, a married man with two sons, had led an exemplary life in East Germany since 1946 it did not outweigh the seriousness of the crimes and did not demand leniency.

Barth was sentenced to death in his absence by a tribunal in Bordeaux, France, in 1953. Calling him a "murderous

rifleman" the judge went on: "The crimes of the accused are extremely serious. They are marked by an unscrupulous disregard for life and the dignity of man."

Barth could have been sentenced to death but there have been no known executions in East Germany in recent years.

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Andropov's offer as Start resumes

Moscow meets objections on nuclear-free Baltic

Moscow (NYT) - Mr Yuri Andropov, renewing a long-standing Soviet proposal for a nuclear free zone in northern Europe, says that the idea could be extended to the Baltic Sea.

The Soviet leader, speaking at a dinner for Mr Mauno Korpisto, the visiting Finnish President, said the Soviet Union was ready to discuss with other nations the question of giving nuclear-free status to the Baltic.

Mr Andropov spoke after signing an agreement extending for 20 years the treaty of friendship and cooperation that has governed relations between Finland and the Soviet Union since 1948.

The treaty has been the basis of the generally cooperative and uncritical stance that Finland has adopted. The Soviet proposal for a nuclear-free zone for the Nordic countries is at least 25 years old, but has failed to attract the endorsement of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, at whom it is principally aimed. Finland has supported the idea.

In his speech, Mr Andropov attempted to meet two of the objections put forward by opponents. One has been that the Soviet formulation does not include the Baltic, which is used by Soviet vessels with nuclear warheads.

Another is the absence in the original proposal of any provisions for removing nuclear

weapons from land areas of the Soviet Union near the Nordic countries.

That problem has been dealt with in recent years by saying that the Soviet Union is ready to consider measures concerning the nuclear status of its nearby territory. Mr Andropov repeated that undertaking on Monday.

Some months ago, a military spokesman, Colonel-General Nikolai Chernov, said that if the Baltic was declared a nuclear-free zone, the Soviet Navy would withdraw six missile-carrying submarines that are based there.

Western experts identified the submarines in question as older vessels, each carrying three missiles, that were being phased out of service. They said

US change of tack expected at Geneva

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Straight from last-minute consultations at the White House, General Edward Rowley, United States delegate to the Start (Strategic weapons) negotiations with the Soviet Union, was arriving in Geneva this morning with his delegation. The first meeting in the new round is expected to take place during the afternoon. The negotiations began in June last year.

The Soviet delegation returned to Geneva on Monday without its leader, Mr Victor Karpov. His deputy, Mr Aleksei Oboukhov, said only that he was "not well".

In a prepared statement, Mr Oboukhov said that the Soviet Union would continue the talks "in an active and constructive spirit". They wanted "deep reductions of strategic arms in their entirety in the interests of lowering the level of military confrontation and diminishing the risk of nuclear war".

In the parallel negotiations on tactical (medium range) missiles in Geneva the going is said to be heavy. There was only one formal meeting last week, instead of the usual two.

• **WASHINGTON:** President Reagan consulted his senior national security advisers on a proposal for demonstrating more United States flexibility in negotiations, Mohsin Ali writes. The White House spokesman said that the President would soon announce decisions on a

20-year jail terms in Mafia trial

Junta eases British assets ban

Palermo (Reuters) - An Italian government crackdown against organized crime took a step forward on Monday night when a Palermo court sentenced alleged Mafia leaders to prison terms of up to 20 years on drugs, arms and organized crime charges.

Tanummo Izzelillo, Rosario and Giuseppe Gambino, Emanuele Adamsa and Filippo Ragnesi were sentenced to 20 years. Rosario Spatola, chief defendant in the trial of 75 alleged members of the Mafia's Spatola, Izzelillo and Gambino "families" was sentenced to 13 years in prison and an 80m lire (just over £23,000) fine.

Altogether 59 defendants were found guilty in the trial, the first under anti-mafia laws passed by Parliament last year after the murders of a prominent Communist politician and of the General Carlo Alberto Della Chiesa, the Palermo police chief.

The prosecution accused the defendants of belonging to "new Mafia" gangs controlling Sicilian building rackets.

The indictment outlined a web of financial dealings between Palermo's booming construction industry, New York underworld bosses and outwardly respectable Milan businessmen.

Whitehall denies election delayed Argentine's visa

By Henry Stankope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The man who wants to take relatives of Argentine war dead to the Falklands, found even the British Isles still barred to him last night.

But a report that Señor Osvaldo Destefanis's application for a visa would not be granted until after tomorrow's election, was being carefully denied by Whitehall officials. "It is still being considered, that's all," he said.

Señor Destefanis's earlier attempt to organize a pilgrimage to the Falklands collapsed when the International Committee of the Red Cross refused to become involved.

In the end, the best he could arrange was a funeral service at sea, his vessel under instructions from Buenos Aires not to confront British warships protecting the 150-mile exclusion zone around the islands.

Now he is in Paris awaiting a visa.

• **PARIS:** Señor Destefanis referred to *The Times* in Paris

as having been given a visa.

He had first applied for his visa at the British Embassy in Buenos Aires on May 30, he had been told it would take only five days. He said: "I don't see why there is now this delay. I feel really bad. They seem to be afraid of letting me into Britain, but I cannot do any harm to anyone."

"I just feel that it is very important for me to go to England to negotiate this trip personally. I can give the Government proof that our visit is purely humanitarian and not for the purposes of propaganda."

The British Embassy in Paris said that it had told Señor Destefanis that he was unlikely to get his visa next week, though it could not be certain when it would come through. There had been no specific mention of the British election it insisted.

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Air force chiefs suspected each other, Zimbabwe trial told

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A Zimbabwe Air Force board of inquiry comprising some of the men now on trial for allegedly helping to sabotage a aircraft asked police to arrest one of the men being tried with him and recommended that another be court-martialled, the High Court was told here yesterday. The man recommended for court-martial by the board he suspected a wing commander, also on trial, might have been involved in the sabotage plot.

Information given to the board, which was set up immediately after the sabotage, was said to have prejudiced in varying degrees three of the officers now on trial.

Details of the inquiry, which the state maintains was part of a plot by the accused to divert attention from their alleged guilt, emerged for the first time during yesterday's proceedings before Mr Justice Dumbudzo.

The board was chaired by Air Commodore Philip Pile and included Wing Commander Peter Briscoe, the second and third accused of the six officers charged with aiding the sabotage of 13 ZAF aircraft last July 25.

During Wing Commander Briscoe's evidence yesterday it was disclosed that the board had asked police to arrest Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, the sixth accused and had decided to recommend that Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, the fifth accused, who had responsibility for security at the Thornhill air base, be court-martialled. No reasons were given during yesterday's proceedings for these decisions.

Anger and grief for ANC three

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

The families of the three African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas who are to be hanged tomorrow have reacted with anger as well as grief to the refusal of the South African President to grant a reprieve.

Mr Daniel Mogoerane, whose son, Simon, is one of the three, said: "As far as I am concerned my son and the two others did not act like ordinary criminals and it would be unfair to hang them."

Mrs Sarah Moseolli, the mother of Mr Jerry Moseolli, another of the condemned men, declared: "Go well my son, I love you. I am proud of you because you're to die for your people. We'll meet where you're going. You must know the struggle will not end even after your death."

Mrs Moseolli's husband, Isaac, and Mr Frans Motaung, father of Mr Marcus Motaung, the third of the condemned, have both applied to be allowed to bury their sons. "He will not be buried by prison wardens. He loved and died for us. Therefore he deserves a decent burial", Mr Moseolli said.

The attitude of the families undoubtedly reflects the view of many blacks who see the ANC guerrillas as soldiers and freedom fighters. Outside South Africa there is considerable support for the argument that captured ANC insurgents should be granted prisoner-of-war status.

About a dozen ANC guerrillas have been sentenced to death since the upsurge of guerrilla activity caused by unrest in black townships in 1976-77. So far, however, only one has been executed. He was Mr Solomon Mahlangu, who was hanged in April 1979, after being convicted of murder during a gun attack on a Johannesburg warehouse.

Hawke in no hurry for an Australian republic

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Australia might opt to become a Commonwealth republic sometime in the future, but not yet, Mr Bob Hawke, the country's new Labour Prime Minister, said yesterday. There were many, many, higher priorities on his agenda, he told a press conference in London.

Speaking after tea with the Prince and Princess of Wales, and just before leaving for lunch with the Queen, he also smartly spiced a newspaper claim that he despised the Royal Family.

"Since I have had the opportunity to get to know Her Majesty, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, I have developed a high personal regard for all of them. They have what must be one of the most difficult jobs in the world and they discharge their duties magnificently", he said.

There is a growing rumour in his own party over reports that he is moving towards *de facto* recognition of Indonesian rule over East Timor, contrary to Labour policy which calls for self-determination by the local people.

But he refused yesterday to

OAU still stalled on Polisario

Addis Ababa (Reuter) - Entrenched positions over the western Sahara dispute today held up the formal opening of the organization of African Unity's twice-stalled nineteenth summit for the second day.

OAU spokesman Mr Peter Onu, told reporters that a 21-nation committee had so far failed to find a breakthrough in the dispute about whether the summit should be attended by the Polisario independence movement fighting against Moroccan rule in western Sahara.

Mr Onu said heads of state and other delegation leaders would hold an informal session later to seek a compromise. The 51 members are all representatives here.

Spokesman for the Polisario, whose presence at the first attempt to hold the meeting in Libya - last August - led to a boycott that left the session without a quorum, said they were determined to take part in the informal session.

Delegates said that if a quorum could not be mustered at an informal session, there was little hope that the summit would get off the ground.

Morocco says that the Polisario's self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) should not have been admitted to the OAU in February 1982, because it is not a state as such.

Moroccan officials, anticipating support from their largely pro-West allies, said they did not expect the summit to start because it would not get a 34-nation quorum.

But other delegates, from both pro and anti-SADR camps, thought that enough leaders might shelve their positions on the western Sahara because they were concerned that a third summit failure would wreck the OAU completely.



Royal funeral: Members of Belgian and foreign Royal families attending the funeral of Prince Charles, Count of Flanders and uncle of King Baudouin at the church of Saint Jacob on Goudeberg in Brussels yesterday. Prince Charles died last Wednesday, aged 79.

Malawi gives Chirwa time to appeal for clemency

Harare (Reuter) - Mr Orion Chirwa, the Malawi Opposition leader, and his wife, Vera, condemned to death for treason, are not due to be executed this week and, in fact, face an appeal process that could take considerable time.

Mr Chirwa, aged 64, a former Justice Minister, and his wife, aged 50, who is also a lawyer, were sentenced last month. They were accused of plotting to overthrow the Government and to assassinate Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the Life President, Ministers and officials.

They denied the charges.

Referring to reports outside Malawi that the Chirwas would be executed tomorrow, a spokesman said: "Their appeal has yet to be heard and even if their appeal in the National Traditional Court fails they can appeal to the President for

clemency. No date has yet been set for the first appeal. This whole procedure could take a lot of time."

Mr Chirwa, aged 64, a former Justice Minister, and his wife, aged 50, who is also a lawyer, were sentenced last month. They were accused of plotting to overthrow the Government and to assassinate Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the Life President, Ministers and officials.

They denied the charges.

The sentence has attracted international attention, with Dr Banda receiving appeals for clemency from various world

figures and organizations. The latest to add a voice to plead for mercy is President Shagari of Nigeria, who said on Monday that he was acting on humanitarian grounds.

Speculations about Malawi's politics has been rife recently among exiles and sympathizers in neighbouring states, fuelled by an impending general election in Malawi at the end of this month.

One report said Dr Banda, who is at least 77, planned to take a sabbatical leave from the leadership he has occupied since independence in 1964, igniting an internal power struggle. But the High Commission spokesman here said the President had said nothing about taking a sabbatical.

Although Malawi is a one-party state firmly ruled by Dr Banda's Malawi Congress Party, at past polls ministers and MPs have lost their jobs, making the pre-election weeks a time of great uncertainty.

Political circles were shocked last month when it was announced that four top party members had been killed in a car crash.

NAIROBI: The African Bar Association has joined the appeal to Dr Banda to pardon the Chirwas. In a letter, the association's Kenyan chairman Mr Lee Muthoga urged Dr Banda to show mercy towards the Chirwas. AFP reports.

LUSAKA: The "Save Malawi Committee" and exile opposition movement complained yesterday to the Organization of African Unity conference in Ethiopia about the "brutal suppression of human rights in Malawi". AFP reports.

The Lion of Kashmir's son in poll triumph

From Michael Hanlyn
Delhi

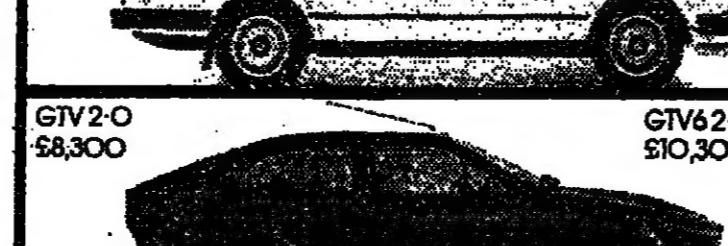
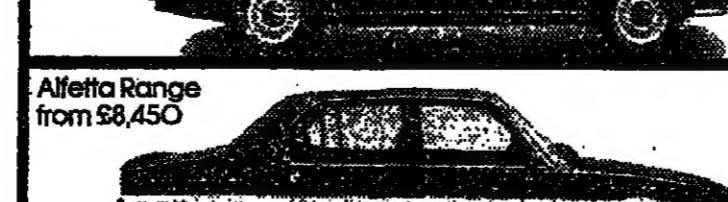
The bitterly contested Jammu and Kashmir state election ended in a triumphal victory for Dr Farooq Abdullah, the son of the Lion of Kashmir. He has won his first big victory since he was installed as Chief Minister by his Father, Shaikh Abdullah, last year, and is now assured of retaining power even though the full results will not be known until the end of the week.

The election was not without comfort for Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, whose party did well in Jammu, virtually eliminating the minor groups. But her party, Congress (I), did not do as well as it expected to in the largely Muslim Kashmir valley, gaining only one seat, plus one or two held by Congress-supported independents.

The election has clearly shown that by concentrating on communal issues, both leaders have dangerously polarized opinion in the state. The Muslims have voted for a Muslim party, Dr Abdullah's National Conference, and the Hindus have voted for Congress (I).

Seven people died in the course of the campaign and over 1,000 were hurt. At an election eve meeting alone several hundred people were hurt by stone-throwing political rivals. The meeting was addressed by Mrs Gandhi.

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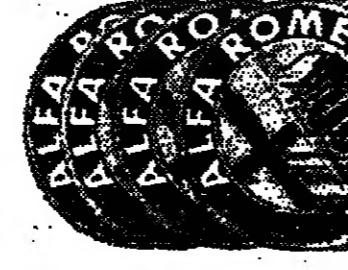
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Nicaragua alleges US diplomat tried to poison minister

Managua (Reuters) - US-Nicaraguan relations have taken a further turn for the worse with the expulsion of three American diplomats accused of anti-state plots, including a scheme to kill the foreign minister with a poisoned bottle of his favourite French wine.

The three were the first US diplomats to be ordered out of Nicaragua since the revolutionaries ousted the US-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

Miss Linda Pfeifel, Political Counsellor, Mr David Greig, First Secretary, and Miss Emilia Loreta Rodriguez, Second Secretary, left Managua on Monday night, some 21 hours after Mr Anthony Quainton, the Ambassador, received a diplomatic note saying the three had been involved in activities against the government.

Earlier, Señor Lenin Cerna, the security chief, told a press conference: "A US Central Intelligence Agency network aiming to assassinate Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto with a bottle of poisoned wine has been smashed."

Holding up a bottle he alleged contained wine laced with the deadly poison thallium, he said Miss Rodriguez had tried to persuade a Foreign Ministry official to pass the brew to Father d'Escoto, who is a

Catholic priest. The wine, produced by Benedictine monks, was his favourite, he added.

Señor Cerna described Greig as the Managua station chief of the CIA and said all three diplomats had acted under orders from CIA headquarters.

Bidding farewell to his colleagues at Cesar Sandino airport, Mr Quainton said their expulsion was a "serious step contributing to a severe degree of tension in bilateral relations".

Asked whether Washington would suspend relations over the incident, he replied: "It would be fairly premature to talk about breaking relations, but obviously the events of the past 24 hours have not contributed to an improvement in relations." He said the charges were preposterous.

Listing details of the diplomats' alleged activities, Señor Cerna said Miss Rodriguez had been involved in the poisoned wine plot. Mr Greig had plotted to jam Local radio stations with anti-government propaganda, and Miss Pfeifel had had contacts with opposition figures.

Señor Cerna displayed Miss Rodriguez's alleged spy equipment, ranging from codebooks to notepaper, he said, could be instantly turned into chewing gum.



Warrior's rest: A Salvadorean soldier after a clash with guerrillas at Tenancingo.

Change in Salvador strategy promised

San Salvador (AP) - General Carlos Eugenio Casanova, the Defence Minister, announced yesterday that new military action would be taken against left-wing guerrillas. He gave no details about the strategy, but said the plan "will require the maximum sacrifice from our families".

General Vides Casanova said he had visited military posts

around the country reminding troops to "respect human rights and stay away from political matters".

Telecommunications officials were trying yesterday to find parts to repair a key microwave relay antenna that was extensively damaged when guerrillas dynamited it at dawn on Sunday.

The attack at El Pacaya, 30

miles east of San Salvador, sharply reduced telephone, telex, television, telegraph and direct-line communications.

● WASHINGTON: Mr Thomas Enders, removed recently as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, was yesterday formally named by President Reagan as US Ambassador to Spain.

From John Best, Ottawa

The other candidate who still has a chance of winning, albeit a slim one, is Mr David Crombie, aged 46, the diminutive former mayor of Toronto.

All the top candidates except

Mr Mulroney, who has never run for Parliament although he has been an active Conservative since student days, are MPs. Mr Crosbie represents a Newfoundland riding, Mr Crombie a Toronto riding and Mr Clark an Alberta riding.

The campaign, which has already been under way more than three months - since February 28, when Mr Crombie declared his candidacy, thereby opening the floodgates and squelching Mr Clark's transitory hopes of regaining the leadership by default - has generally been a low-key affair.

At one point there were a dozen candidates, but one dropped out and three others failed to meet a deadline for posting \$Can 5,000 (£2,463) deposits.

The overriding issue, although not a particularly well articulated one, is ideological and concerns the locus of the soul of the Conservative Party.

There is a strong conservative current running in Canadian politics just now, similar to trends manifested in Britain, the US and other Western countries in recent years.

It could in the end hurt Mr Clark, who is widely regarded as

being middle-of-the-road or slightly left of centre: too moderate, in a word, for the party's vocal right wing.

This would be the case especially if right-wing elements, who do not have a strong candidate of their own, began coalescing behind Mr Mulroney or Mr Crosbie, both of whom have business backgrounds, after the first ballot.

A large, enigmatic shadow will figuratively loom over the convention polling booths as the delegates cast their ballots.

It will be that of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the veteran Liberal Prime Minister, who is still keeping everybody guessing about his retirement plans. He has promised to step down before the next general election, expected next year.



Mr John Crosbie: strong challenger

ILO delay on pipeline questioned

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Russia has accused the International Labour Organization of shilly-shallying on sending officials to investigate labour conditions on the 4,451 km trans-Siberian pipeline for supplying natural gas to Western Europe. Western reports have alleged that workers from forced-labour camps and Vietnam were being employed.

Mr Vassili Prokhorov, vice-chairman of the Soviet Central Trade Union Council, told a press conference in Geneva yesterday that the allegations had been "a deliberate attempt to get the ILO involved in just another anti-Soviet campaign".

He said that the council had invited the ILO last October to send representatives but its insistence on "inventing various preconditions" had led to interminable delay.

Mr Francis Blanchard, the ILO director-general, said a few days ago that the ILO had been able to obtain Soviet guarantees that its projected three-man mission would have unimpeded access to anything they wanted to see at pipeline sites.

Mr Prokhorov urged the ILO to "hurry up with their visit as the construction was rapidly coming to its completion - now, there is practically nothing to see because the project is almost finished". Only 150 km of pipe remained to be insulated and laid in the trenches.

Neither forced labour nor Vietnamese had been in the work force, 40,000 strong at one time and mostly skilled, he added. All Vietnamese workers in the Soviet Union were at various enterprises acquiring skills for use in similar enterprises set up in their own country with Soviet aid.

● MOSCOW - A Siberian woodworker who circulated a petition calling on America and the Soviet Union to scrap their nuclear weapons has been sentenced to three years in prison, his wife said yesterday.

Mr Alexander Shatavik, was arrested last July as he collected signatures on the petition.

MEPs back lead-free campaign

Strasbourg - The campaign for lead-free petrol in the EEC has won full backing of the European Parliament. On Monday, it approved a report calling for a significant reduction in the amount of the metal added to fuel by 1985 and for the phasing in of lead-free petrol "as soon as possible", Ian Murray writes.

The report had called for lead-free petrol by 1985, but the Parliament accepted that this was not possible before 1988. However, it was agreed that member states should reduce the permitted level of lead from the present maximum of 0.4 grammes per litre to 0.15 grammes per litre by 1985.

Exodus over?

Moscow (NYT) - Leaders of the Soviet and Zionist communities set up six weeks ago said they were satisfied that Jewish emigration had effectively stopped because most Soviet Jews who wanted to leave had gone.

Bus casualties

Bonn - Six British tourists were still in hospital in Alsfeld, West Germany, yesterday after a bus taking a tour group from Austria to Ostend ran off the road on Monday evening, injuring 40 of the 41 passengers.

Visa refused

Washington (NYT) - The State Department has refused Mrs Bernadette Devlin McAliskey a visa, because of reports that she intended to raise money in the US for a convicted member of the political wing of the Irish Nationalist Liberation Army.

Czech mate

Waidhaus, West Germany (AP) - A young Bavarian man, apparently in love with a Czechoslovak woman, crashed his car through border barriers before coming to a halt 20 yards inside Communist-ruled territory. He was returned by Czech border guards 24 hours later.

China cuts investment in heavy industry

From David Bonavia, Peking

China is putting the brakes on industrial investment this year - especially in heavy industry - and seeking a much lower growth rate than the prevailing 7 or 8 per cent.

Mr Yao Yilin, a deputy Prime Minister in charge of planning, told the Sixth National People's Congress here yesterday that investment by the state in fixed assets would be nearly £3 billion less than in 1982.

However, he did not explain how China could meet its goal of quadrupling national output by the year 2000 if growth rates were cut.

Addressing the nearly 3,000 delegates from all parts of China on the second day of the Congress, Mr Yao said that efforts would be made to increase industrial production by 5 per cent this year. As it had already increased by 7.6 per cent in the first four months over the corresponding period of 1982, a substantial slowdown must be expected between now and December.

According to Mr Xue Minqiao, a leading Chinese economist, over-lavish investment in industry has led to bottlenecks and waste. Nonetheless, observers are surprised at the sudden slow-down both in planned growth and in actual performance.

Another problem is that, contrary to the plan, heavy industry is still growing faster than light industry. For this year as a whole, the planned growth rates are 3.9 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively. Agricultural production is expected to grow by 4 per cent this year.

The Congress has set up new national committees to handle

problems of minority nationalities, law, finance and economics, foreign affairs, overseas Chinese, and a committee on

education, science, culture and public health.



Mr Ahao Ziyang: Plea to use intellectual resources.

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The Congress has set up new

In the midst of battle, a moment of harmony.

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Micro, a machine which is just beginning to enter world markets having already established itself at home. Its most significant contribution has been in education and today the BBC Micro is in 80% of all British schools that have micros.

Britain is already a world leader in the use of computers in education.

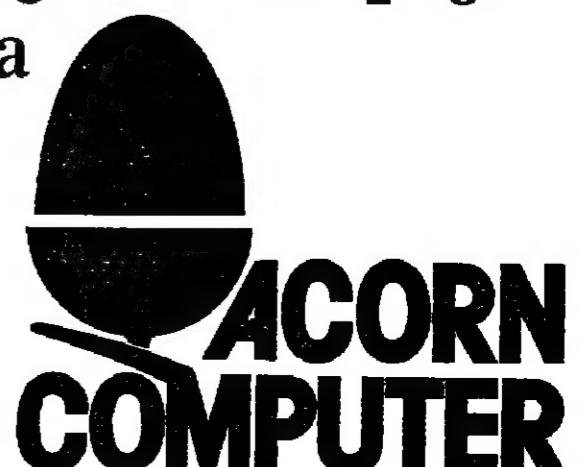
Now we have the vehicle to establish our educational soft-

ware as the finest there is too. (As indeed it is: it has long been observed that computer software brings out the inventive best in the British.)

High technology is basic to the future growth and prosperity of this country.

The microcomputer industry is a vital part of that technology.

Isn't it reassuring to know that, whoever is drinking the champagne on Friday, there is a shared determination to keep that industry ahead in the world?



THE ARTS

Julie Kavanagh, in Shanghai, experiences the two-way success of the Royal Ballet's visit to China

Dancing towards a new freedom

Our arrival in Shanghai boded well—it was cold and raining—sweet relief after the dusty oven of Peking. The day we told up the Great Wall it was 97 degrees fahrenheit, and Peking was recorded as the hottest city in the world. Even so the 10 performances there were a great success. Coaches waiting on the tarmac whisked us in minutes to a new hotel in large, lush grounds. The staff had lined the entrance to applaud the Royal Ballet's arrival, and their enthusiasm was soon reciprocated by the dancers. "There's a bar, a bar!... Everything's so *normal*!" People affectionately fingered the bottles of Pimms in the hotel shop, and at lunch, when plates of chips arrived, there were hysterical swoons of delight.

Food had been the main talking-point even before we arrived in China. There were scare stories of what to expect at banquets: Norman Morrice, director of the Royal Ballet, had simpered honeyed embryo mice when he came to China with Ballet Rambert; someone else knew someone who had been offered bear's paws; and shaved cat in aspic sliced like a terrine. Dancers from the Festival Ballet (who were here in 1979) told people to prepare themselves for a constant feeling of hunger; meals would either be inedible or insufficient. In fact, though the food is monotonous—duck appears not and cold twice a day—and not up to Gerrard Street standards, there is more than enough of it. In Shanghai, where things are more westernized, dancers who before were living off emergency rations of lard, which they had packed in their shoe-bags like schoolboys before leaving home, are seen eating in the dining room.

The effect of the home-from-home comforts of the Cypress Hotel on the company's morale is dramatic: apart from the singing cicadas and exotic animal cells from the nearby zoo, we could be at a Holiday Inn in Sussex. Leslie Edwards came across a mock-Tudor house in the grounds—*"Very Godfrey Winn, my dear"*. Our hotel in Peking, the Yanjing, was much more redundant of China: every room had two familiar frilled armchairs decked with embroidered white cotton squares; and a tray with painted tin flasks of water, blue and white china cups with lids and a wooden box of jasmine tea. Also in every room was an unhoovered

carpet, a cockroach and a grimy plastic comb. Foreign visitors to China cannot choose their hotels; the Chinese decide for you according to who you are and how full the hotels are. Our interpreter told us we were staying in the Cypress because we were a "very important group".

VIG treatment continued when we went to the Shanghai Ballet School for a demonstration by members of their company and ours. A fireworks display—ear-splitting despite the rain—greeted our arrival; there was a large banner welcoming the Royal Ballet and an ovation by the Chinese dancers. About a dozen of them—evidently the cream of the company and aged between 18 and 20—were chosen to perform extracts from Russian classics as well as a couple of items by contemporary Chinese choreographers. What struck one immediately was the freedom of content in the newer works, which were love stories—one quite risqué about that tortured affair between a mother and her stepson.

Several of the girls had long Balanchineque bodies, while the boys exhibited their Russian school-training with their exaggerated upright carriage and virtuous technique. Also impressive was the way the company has imposed a national flavour on the inherited works in *The Dying Swan*, for example, the soloist incorporated the oddly stilted arm movement (as if seen in strobe light) that is a feature of the Peacock Dancer, native to the Thai border. Deliberately saved until the end was the *pas de deux* from *Don Quixote*, danced by a boy with striking Mongolian features and a child-faced girl who was to enchant and invigorate the Royal Ballet so much that days later they were still discussing her.

We all watched aghast as the 20-year-old Huang Chi Feng held ten-second balances in one attitude after another, finally swivelling unsupported into arabesque. In the fouetté sequence she started with 16 perfect doubles. Coupled with this phenomenal technique was a lively presence and charm. The Royal Ballet roared their admiration for her at the end and she was visibly thrilled to have her brilliance confirmed. A little chastened by the standard of what they had seen, the British dancers gave a morris dancing demonstration that much amused the Chinese, and

pas de deux from *La Fille mal gardée* and *Mariage*. Merle Park decided to perform an impromptu, more virtuous duet from the climax of MacMillan's *ballet*.

The Shanghai Ballet demonstration and the accuracy of training that has been seen in schools both here and in Peking have caused considerable excitement all round: one dancer has been day-dreaming about coming back to China to acquire some virtuous tricks; others hope to persuade the Royal Ballet to invite guest Chinese teachers to London, which may well come about. Sir Claus Moser, Chairman of Covent Garden, stressing the importance of maintaining cultural relations with China, "which is so much at take-off point economically and artistically", said that he would love to find ways of attaching the more promising Chinese dancers to the Royal Ballet for a few years and encouraging their best teachers to spend time in England.

"First of all, we must come back!" Sir Claus also went to a demonstration by students from Peking's Conservatoire of Music, which he said was the most exciting and enjoyable experience he has had in years.

One reason behind China's new artistic strength is her eager assimilation of influences from outside: time and again the Chinese have remarked that the Royal Ballet's visit is valued

as a source of instruction as much as entertainment. Much of their repertoire has already been seen—and presumably studied—on video. If China now has outstanding dancers and teachers (several are former dancers who, because of the Cultural Revolution, missed out on their own careers but are passing on their knowledge), what they still lack, and what the Royal Ballet's season will exhibit, is choreographic strength and attention to stylistic detail, like épaulement.

By way of return, the more enterprising Royal Ballet members have been absorbing all they can from the Chinese. Inspired by an acrobat we saw in the Peking Opera, whose landings were as soft as a cat's, Stephen Sherif, making his debut as the Blue Boy in *Patineurs*, had lessons in Peking to improve his "butterflies". Ashley Page and Jonathan Burrows were taught Tai-ji every morning between 5.30 and 7, and we may well see the large movements distilled into their choreography. Several dancers have had acupuncture and the steel-fingered, pressure-point massage the Chinese specialize in. About a dozen of the company hired bicycles in Peking, one cycling to the Great Wall and back in a day. "Hoh! Great, great!" said our interpreter when he heard that. "Not even the Chinese would do that!" The ramshackle department

store near the Peking theatre, which the dancers renamed Debunkers, was crammed with army caps, Mao jackets and black canvas shoes that cost all of 3 yuan—90p.

It is apparently even harder for the public to buy tickets here than it was in Peking. Like anywhere in the world things depend largely on who you know. An English teacher and ardent border fan I spoke to said she devotes considerable time to dining theatrical contacts and sending them gifts. Outside the theatre on the first night a crowd of over a hundred students clamoured in vain for tickets when the dancers arrived. Perhaps because of the ticket shortage, the audience in Shanghai seemed harder to please. But they reacted enthusiastically to technical displays (Phillip Brookhead's hyper-extended grand jete and Stephen Beagley's neat trice-vole).

Awareness of a discriminating audience out front has given the dancers a competitive, "let's show them" attitude. They are beginning to look tired for the first time on the tour, but the fact there are only four more *Benzies* to go (there will have been 17 performances in three weeks) and they are less than a fortnight from home keeps their spirits impressively buoyant.

• Julie Kavanagh is Arts Editor of *Harper's and Queen*.

Television
Natural delights

deners descended wholesale and dug up the plants to grow in their gardens. Our ancestors, of course, would have left it where it was and come back for more. Now only one plant survives on the whole Norfolk coast and Mr Mabey crouched over it and moaned.

He introduced us first to the delights of sea kale, the shoots of which, apparently, are as tasty as asparagus. Once it was plentiful along our shores. Then, in the nineteenth century, a botanist wrote a pamphlet extolling its virtues and gar-

Dennis Hackett

Annually, Canada commemorates events of historical importance with its special issues of legal tender coins. This year's silver dollar struck by the Royal Canadian Mint, is the 41st in a series well known to collectors.

The theme for the 1983 silver dollar is the World University Games. Canada is proud to welcome athletes from the United Kingdom to Universiades 1983, being held in Edmonton, Alberta, from July 1st until July 11th.

This is the first time an official coin of the realm has been minted to commemorate the Games. The Universiade dollar is struck in two finishes: Proof and Brilliant Uncirculated, and contains 50% pure silver. 1983 numismatic coin sets are also available.

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Absorbing all the influences: Wayne Eagling, in army cap, at the Forbidden City in Peking

Concerts Sonorous daring

Schola Cantorum/ Leonhardt Spitalfields

This season has produced some fascinating combinations of directors from abroad with the best English performers of eighteenth-century music. First Sigiswald Kuijken came to lead the London Baroque Players, then Arnold Ostrom arrived to conduct Choralcross at Sadler's Wells, and on Monday night Gustav Leonhardt directed the Schola Cantorum of Oxford and a specially-formed Spitalfields Baroque Orchestra in a programme of Bach.

The soloists also sounded quite out of it all: Ian Partridge was understandably reluctant to give voice to all in Cantata 166 but he should nevertheless be given the chance to sing in this.

Many of the players in these events have been the same but the results have been radically different: it was Leonhardt who risked most and gained most from an approach that is quite unfamiliar in this country. There was no easy reliance on the changing rhythms and neat figures which sustain too much period-instrument playing here; every musical gesture was boldly, at times awkwardly, swept into place, and often the forward pulse of the playing was sacrificed to an exuberant sense of movement on a tiny, geometrical shape or breathing-space.

The technique paid in the choral writing: this is the only time I have heard an English

group even approach the singing with such rhythmic clarity as the Oxford Choristers, and in the infinite subtleties of the Schola Cantorum, the result was not, in the least affected even though the singers were clearly only beginning to come to terms with the sound. Ready gaieties (also heard to beautiful effect in *Cantata 168*) and recitatives whispering their oversimplifying dissonances (well caught by the wonderful bloom of the church's acoustic) matched the choral voices perfectly.

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timbre (Philip Langridge, Bruce Kersting, John Shirley-Quirk) for the reflections of the choir, the accompanying soprano plain (Margaret Currie), the stirring the self-assured men's chorus. The Royal Choral Society had the full measure of the musicians' contrapuntal writing interlaced and pointed by keenly selected orchestral colours.

After the interval, we had good reason to be grateful for the presence of John Shirley-Quirk, the thrillingly expressive "O Freunde, nicht diese Töne!" went straight to the mark, as it determined to direct and galvanize all that was to come, as well, alas, as being all too apt a response to what had gone before. For, despite assiduous and valiant singing from choirs and soloists, yet another band of deputies from the London Symphony Orchestra gave a performance which, in its alternation between hollow rhetoric and bland, even carelessly complacent, was less than worthy of its large and loyal audience.

Hilary Finch

RCS/Davies

Festival Hall

Since the splendour of a solitary choral in *consistently denied Beethoven's Ninth Symphony*, there can hardly be a better practical and aesthetic move in programme planning than to turn it with a work which gives out with similar forces, a different reflection of the same glory: Nielsen's *Hymns Anno-*

Despite Nielsen's claims for the elevating and universalizing power of Latin, his half-hour work is of more specific and often more affective human proportions than the final choral movement of the Beethoven. The childhood chorus, fearlessly and simply sung on Monday by the choir of Trinity College of Music Junior Department, focuses the blithe, childlike experience of the unifying power of love that radiates the entire work.

This deceptive simplicity is saved from the simplistic by shrewd touches like the use of three male voices of contrasting

Dance

Cinderella

Coliseum

Ben Stevenson mounted *Cinderella* for Festival Ballet 10 years ago but it did not last long in the repertory. They took it down from the shelf for a pre-Christmas tour and on Monday the revival had its first London showing at the Coliseum. Will it have better luck this time?

The music, at least, is more attractive than Prokofiev's other long ballets, and the Festival Ballet orchestra gave a decent account of it under Graham Bond's direction. Lighter in texture than *Romeo*, more melodic too, it is a modern equivalent of those likable, craftsmanlike nineteenth-century scores which are so often and unjustifiably abused.

The structure of the music more or less dictates the action, but even so the resemblances between Stevenson's production and Ashton's are more than the repertory can bear. The opening number, the jubilant "Kickin' the Clouds Away" from the current *My One and Only*, led gracefully into guest artists' presentation of other Gershwin songs throughout the evening.

Fierstein's victory for best play exemplified the healing power of the *Tonys* in a year of bitter battles over nominations.

The Tony nominating committee, which has promised to reconsider its rules, was most criticized for leaving Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoir* off its final list. The *Trilogy*, which looks to be Broadway's first long-running hit about homosexuals, clearly became the sentimental favourite.

The nominating committee's blunder in not permitting, despite precedent, James Baskett and Ann Pitoniak to be nominated together as Outstanding Actress for the two

numbers in a Musical award.

Audiences heard Miss Makarova's delightful thanks to "my husband, who didn't help much but wasn't in my way"; but missed his laughter at the comment, and were also focused elsewhere when Trevor Nunn gave a little jump for joy in his seat when *Cats* won the Best Musical.

Now again he has a really intelligent production touch.

The best is near the end, when the prince recognizes Cinderella as soon as he sees her face without needing to see the shoes tried on. But Stevenson's ugly sisters are not very funny: no

one can be expected to

likelihood of these stealing the show though Kelli Wells has her kleptomaniac best.

In the opening cast, Patricia Ruane made a Cinderella responsive to every change of mood and circumstance. Jonas Kaag is a handsome and ardent lover for her, an exceptionally strong partner and a dashing soloist. The other outstanding performance came from Koen Ouisse as the jester, amazingly speedy, light and strong.

The fairies who escort Cinderella have less interesting dances than in Ashton, and almost disappear among the guests at the ball. Peter Farmer's designs also evoke a sense of *déjà vu*, but are in better taste than the present Covent Garden version.

John Percival

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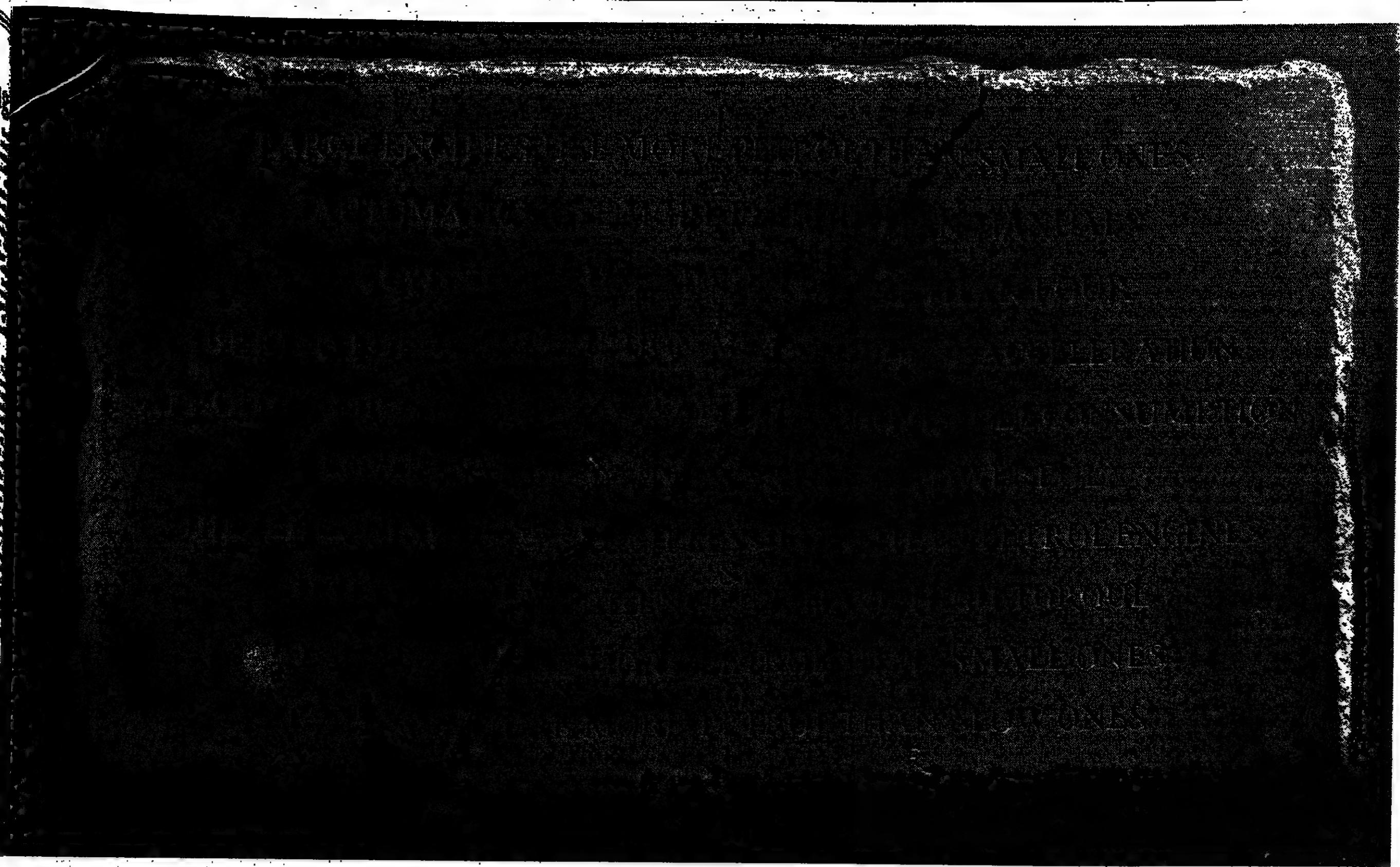
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SPECTRUM

A clear day and a sitting target

John Grimwade

The Welsh Guards' tragedy at Fitzroy, one of the most shocking episodes of the Falklands war, was the subject of a naval board of inquiry whose findings were never made public. Jenny Rathbone reconstructs the tangle of conflicting priorities which fatally exposed them a year ago today

In the waters off the small settlement of Fitzroy, during the afternoon of Tuesday, June 8, 1982, British forces sustained their worst casualties of the Falklands war. On a single ship, the Sir Galahad, 48 men were killed. Three times that number were wounded, many of them horribly burnt. It was the last day on which Argentina launched serious air attacks against British forces, and less than a week before the final surrender at Port Stanley.

Sir Galahad had arrived at Fitzroy bay that morning, laden with 350 Welsh Guards and their equipment. She had sat for six hours in broad daylight, in full view of the Argentines occupying the hills between Fitzroy and Port Stanley. Her sister ship Sir Tristram had been anchored 200 yards away since before dawn the previous day, unloading her cargo of ammunition.

The men and machinery on these two logistical landing ships (LSLs) were urgently required to enable the long-awaited, two-brigade advance on Port Stanley to begin. Sending them by sea was the quickest way of getting them to the front line.

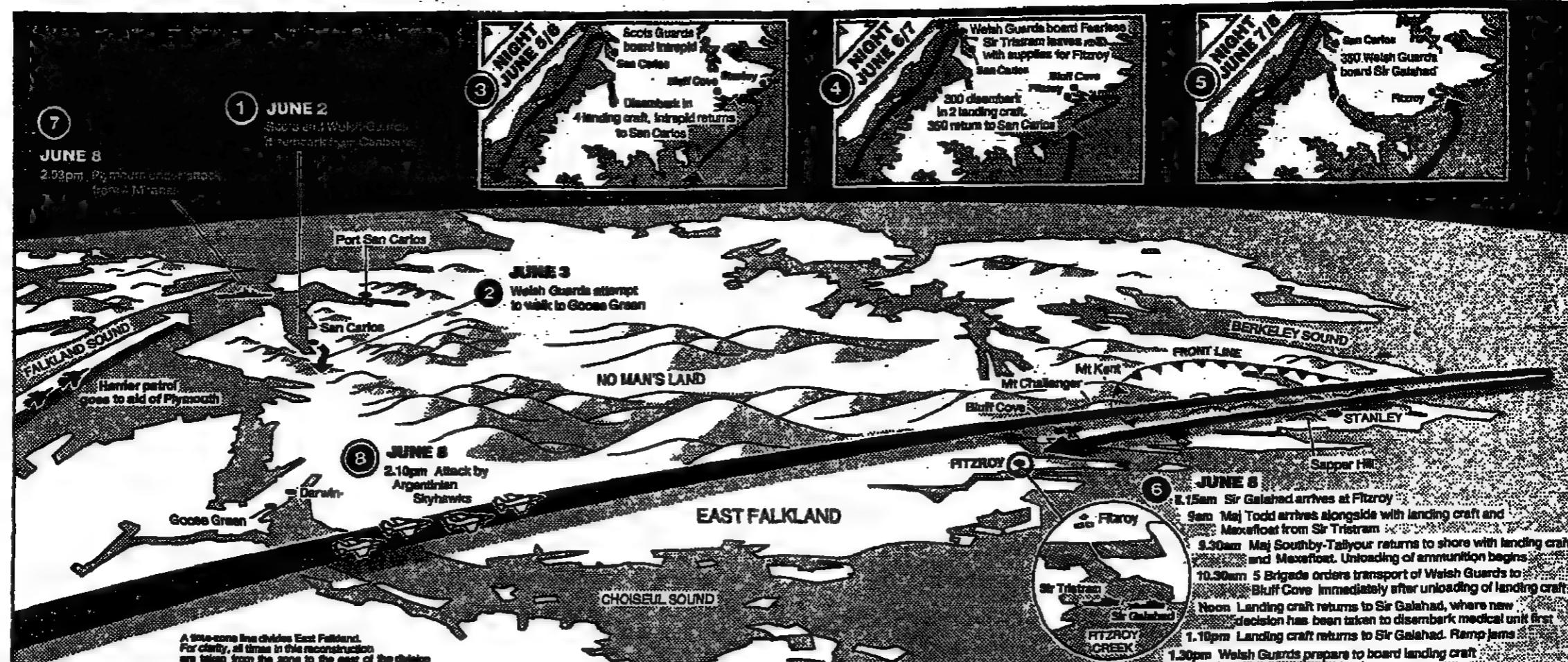
The risks involved had been the subject of continuous debate between London and the command off the Falkland Islands over the previous five days. In particular, it had been decided that it was too dangerous to risk a capital assault ship (Intrepid or Fearless) in taking troops to the front. The more useable LSLs, however, could be used – even though they had no significant defences.

But, unforeseen by the planners, the dangers to Sir Galahad and the Welsh Guards were to multiply in the hours before the ship sailed into Fitzroy bay. The previous day, Monday, June 7 – as was later revealed by signals intelligence – the Argentines, manning observation posts overlooking Fitzroy, noting the arrival of Sir Tristram and anticipating a troop landing, had sent a message to the mainland requesting an air strike. The Argentine air force was given more than 24 hours to plan and carry out the attack. It was to do so with devastating effect.

The origin of the tragedy goes back to May 25, when the container ship Atlantic Conveyor was hit by an Exocet missile. Three giant Chinook helicopters were lost with the ship, virtually eliminating the airborne troop-carrying capacity of the British task force. Commodore Michael Clapp, the naval officer in charge of the amphibious landing which began on May 21, wanted to postpone any advance out of the San Carlos bridgehead until the losses of the Atlantic Conveyor could be replaced.

He was overruled by his superiors in London: the political and military imperatives were to get on with the war.

The author is a researcher for Granada Television's World in Action programme



When the Welsh and Scots Guards disembarked from the Canberra at San Carlos on Wednesday, June 2, Major General Jeremy Moore, the land forces commander, decided that no helicopters could be made available to bring them forward to the front line; they were stretched supplying the troops already situated on the high ground.

The Guards were stuck at San Carlos, but their arrival gave their brigade commander, Brigadier Tony Wilson, the back-up to accelerate movement on the southern route. Having ascertained that no Argentines were occupying the settlements of Fitzroy and Bluff Cove, Wilson commanded the sole surviving Chinook helicopter on the island to airlift 154 men of 2 Para from Goose Green to within 15 miles of Port Stanley.

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The Welsh Guards were sent back to their original camp at San Carlos to await fresh instructions. Under a revised plan, the Scots Guards were taken half-way to Bluff Cove on Intrepid and completed the journey in the ship's four large landing craft. They were guided there by Major Ewen Southby-Tailyour, a landing craft and Falklands expert.

On the evening of June 6, the Welsh Guards were loaded on to Fearless, Moore's command ship. Fearless's captain, Jeremy Larkin, argued that with his ship's superior engine speed, and by leaving San Carlos before nightfall, he could halve the distance the Welsh Guards would have to travel by landing craft to complete their journey. But two of Fearless's four landing craft had to be left behind at

San Carlos to continue loading supplies on to Sir Tristram, sailing south with supplies later that night; and a rendezvous with Southby-Tailyour and the Intrepid landing craft never materialized. A force nine gale forced the Intrepid boats to remain in Fitzroy.

Major Tony Todd, a Royal Corps of Transport officer on the Commodore's staff, was roused from his bed and told he was to guide half the embarked Welsh Guards to Bluff Cove at dawn.

Unhappy about having to leave half his men on board Fearless, the Welsh Guards' commanding officer, Lt Col John Rickett, left the ship with the understanding that they would join him as soon as possible. Major Guy Sayle, commanding officer of the Prince of Wales company, remained in charge of the 350 Welsh Guards who returned to San Carlos. Discussion about what to do with them went on for nearly 24 hours.

During the deliberations, Fearless was caught in the Falkland Sound in daylight and attacked by Argentine planes. The ship escaped unscathed, but any residual thoughts about using either of the assault ships in a repeat operation were resolved by a further message from Fieldhouse in London. He vetoed any further use of either Fearless or Intrepid; troop movements by sea in future would have to be conducted by LSL.

The LSL in question was Sir Galahad, which had returned empty to San Carlos on the morning of June 7 and was already earmarked to take Rapier surface-to-air missiles and an army medical team to Fitzroy. It was decided that the ship would sail south of the island that night, taking the Welsh Guards with her.

Once the decision had been made, however, it was clear that the supplies

rather than the troops had become the priority. On board Fearless that day, Brigadier Wilson's priority was to establish an advance dressing station at Fitzroy, and to build up his brigade headquarters and maintenance area there.

Major Todd, for their part, wanted to make Fearless the main maintenance and supply area for both 3 Brigade and 5 Brigade in the forthcoming push on Stanley. With this purpose in view, the Rapier were uppermost in their minds. Much less attention seems to have been paid by the planners to the Welsh Guards and the field ambulance unit. Contradictory orders were given to the Master of Sir Galahad and to the senior officer commanding the troops.

The Master, Captain Phil Roberts, was told by Major Guy Yeoman of Clapp's staff to go initially to Bluff Cove and to offload the Welsh Guards. He was then to sail the rest of his cargo back round to Fitzroy, all under cover of darkness. Maj Sayle was told by Col Baxter of General Moore's staff to transfer his Welsh Guards from Fearless to Sir Galahad, which would be sailing to Fitzroy. Sayle was given no new orders, either on board Fearless or subsequently on Sir Galahad, that would have altered those given to him by his commanding officer the previous night before they were separated. Lt Col Rickett had told him to bring the men and their equipment to Bluff Cove by sea as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the medical unit due to sail on Sir Galahad had not been told the ship's schedule. Lieutenant Colonel John Roberts, commanding officer of the 16th Field Ambulance, had been given his orders over an insecure beach net, capable of being listened to by the enemy. It took the field ambulance seven hours after receiving their orders to start coming on board – long after the Welsh Guards had been embarked

and were ready to sail. So Sir Galahad set off for Fitzroy, with less than nine hours of darkness ahead of her.

At Fitzroy, 5 Brigade's staff had received no information about Sir Galahad's movements. Sir Tristram had arrived unannounced before dawn on June 7 and Major Todd, having deposited his 300 Welsh Guards at Bluff Cove, had crossed to Fitzroy with his two landing craft to supervise her unloading. He had six landing craft at his disposal, plus a Mexefloat pontoon.

Whatever message was sent from Fearless at San Carlos on June 7 concerning the rest of the Welsh Guards being sent south on Sir Galahad, there is no evidence that it arrived either at the brigade headquarters at Darwin or forward at Fitzroy. In ignorance, 5 Brigade relinquished five of the six landing craft overnight: four sailed to rejoin their mother-ship, Intrepid; the fifth was despatched to Goose Green.

Only one person at Fitzroy was expecting Sir Galahad when she arrived there at 8.15 on the morning of June 8. Just before she arrived, Maj Todd, on board Sir Tristram, had read a signal that had come in overnight on the ship's teleprinter. It gave Sir Galahad's revised departure and arrival time. At that stage, a single landing craft and a Mexefloat pontoon were moored alongside Sir Tristram, waiting for the tide to change.

Todd gathered them together and crossed over to Sir Galahad, now anchored 200 yards away, to start grappling with the new and difficult situation. It was a beautiful clear day; they could see, and be seen, for miles.

Boarding Sir Galahad through the stern gate, Todd invited the commanding officers of the two Welsh Guards rifle companies on board, Sayle and Major Charles Bremner, to take their men ashore immediately at Fitzroy.

This, of course, contradicted their expectation, which was to be taken directly to Bluff Cove by sea without separating their men from their equipment. They requested to be taken there without delay.

Maj Southby-Tailyour, who had also crossed to Sir Galahad from Sir Tristram, joined the discussion on the tank deck. He indicated that it was too dangerous to send the landing craft or the LSL itself to Bluff Cove in daylight, and advised the officers to take their men ashore at Fitzroy. But the frustrated Welsh Guards officers were determined not to allow their men to become a low priority once again.

There were no direct communications between the LSL and 5 Brigade headquarters at Fitzroy settlement, a 20-minute walk from the beach. So Southby-Tailyour was despatched there to seek new orders, leaving the landing craft and the Mexefloat in daylight, and the beach to begin offloading their pallets of ammunition, more than an hour after the ship had anchored.

The senior staff officer at Fitzroy was Major Barney Rolfe-Smith. His

superiors were all assembled on board Fearless (again anchored in the relative safety of San Carlos Water), for Moore's all-day council of war. Sir Galahad was not uppermost in their minds.

Rolfe-Smith initially greeted Southby-Tailyour's message with disbelief; he thought that most of the Welsh Guards had already landed at Bluff Cove that night before. After an hour's deliberation, he decided that they should disembark first. As soon as the landing craft had unloaded its ammunition, it was to take the Welsh Guards to Bluff Cove – in daylight.

After midday, nearly four hours after Sir Galahad's arrival, the landing craft finished unloading and went back empty to the ship. In the meantime, however, Lt Col Roberts had succeeded in getting 5 Brigade's fresh decision altered. It was now agreed that his advance medical unit of 12 men and nine vehicles should get off first – before the Guards.

After depositing the medics on Fitzroy beach, there was a further delay: the landing craft was sent round to the jetty at Fitzroy settlement to take on rations and fuel destined for Bluff Cove. Finally, five hours after Sir Galahad's arrival, it returned to the ship to take off the first load of Welsh Guards – but as the landing craft approached the stern gate of Sir Galahad, its ramp jammed.

Forty miles away at San Carlos, a first wave of Argentine aircraft swooped down to attack HMS Plymouth. The single pair of Harriers patrolling the islands south of Falkland Sound were summoned in response to Plymouth's call for help.

No such defences were available to Sir Galahad: no frigates in the area, no Harriers airborne, no Rapier operational, no Blowpipe troops deployed; poor communications delayed receipt of the original air raid warning at Fitzroy by 12 minutes, and there was no direct link to pass the message on to the ship anchored in the bay. At 2.10pm, four Argentine Skyhawks attacked Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram.

Sir Galahad was hit four times. One unexploded bomb passed clean through the ship's hull. Another exploded in the midst of the Welsh Guards' mortar platoon, assembled in a confined space on the tank deck. Most of them were killed. After the initial shock, the survivors groped around in the darkness and smoke to find escape hatches, with ammunition exploding all around them.

Forty-eight men died on board Sir Galahad, 38 of them Welsh Guards. Two more died on board Sir Tristram. More than 150 were wounded.

Only the heroism of the helicopter crews who flew into the black smoke to rescue the wounded, of the doctors who saved lives and of the soldiers, medics and crew who did what they could to rescue comrades trapped in the wreckage, smoke and flames, did something to save the day.

The most beautiful authors in the world

MOREOVER Miles Kington

against a poodle, do you? Or, if he had to kiss a girl, always find himself kissing her nose? So, he doesn't want his mug staring out of a million paperbacks, does he? People coming up to him and saying, 'Your characterization was really tops in chapter eight, you old fraud.' They write a little clause in their contract saying they must not be pictured on the cover, so again they get someone like me in.

"Authors are lucky in that they generally don't have to appear in public and even when they do, people don't twig that the bloke in *Russell Hoban* looks nothing like the bloke on the book. It's different if you're a performer. Like, if you're a singer, you can't sing behind a screen. Well, Elton John can sing behind a toupee, huge specs and a grand piano, but even so you can see bits of him.

"That's why I admire Barry

Manilow so much. To have gone so far with a face like that. And songs like that. And, let's be honest, a voice like that. If he'd been an author, no publisher alive would have dared to put his face on a book.

"Authors are lucky in that they generally don't have to appear in public and even when they do, people don't twig that the bloke in *Russell Hoban* looks nothing like the bloke on the book. It's different if you're a performer. Like, if you're a singer, you can't sing behind a screen. Well, Elton John can sing behind a toupee, huge specs and a grand piano, but even so you can see bits of him.

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"There's a new trend among publishers to choose authors for their looks. Let's get someone who's going to look smashing on the back of the book, they say. No names, no pack drill, but they sign up Jackie and Jill and that and Pat the other, just for the glamour. Well, what I want to know is this: can they write as well? I'm only asking.

"Incidentally, Mr King, I hope you don't mind my asking, but who've you got for that picture at the top of your column? Brigitte Bardot, but then the editor stopped in and said it would have to stop. Great pity, I always thought.

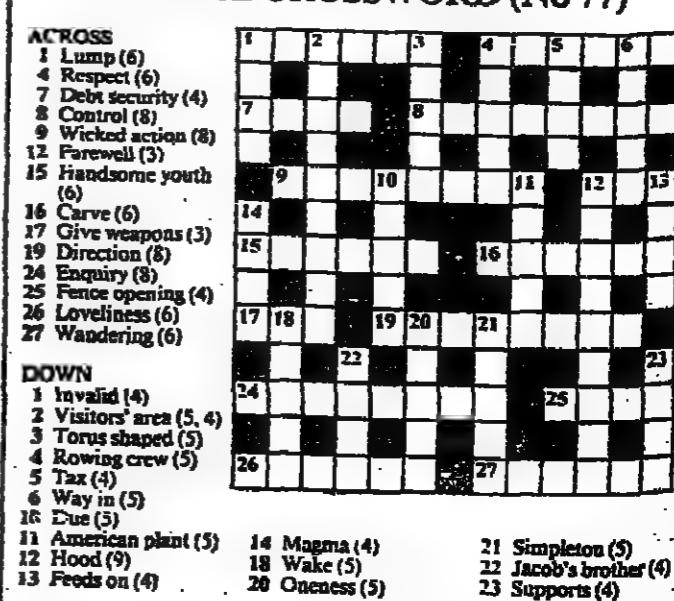
"Know who I think would look good at the top of your column? Brigitte Bardot, but then the editor stopped in and said it would have to stop. Great pity, I always thought.

Telly Savalas. The readers loved it. Next week they used a picture of Elton John, after that one of Brigitte Bardot, but then the editor stopped in and said it would have to stop. Great pity, I always thought.

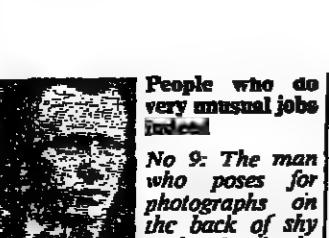
"See if they even notice. Believe me, I think it would work and I should know. I'm doing myself out of a job, after all."

TOMORROW
The *Moreover* guide to television coverage of the election

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 77)



SOLUTIONS TO No 76
ACROSS: 1. Osmium 5. Soba 8. Quack 9. Sangria 11. Innocent 13. Foul 14. Neighbour 15. Rota 19. Borrowed 22. Gnocchi 23. Forge 24. Skirt 25. Tomato 26. Sash 3. Ink 4. Misanthropist 5. Song 6. Harbour 7. Squid 10. Able 12. Cad 14. Bear 15. Network 16. Drag 17. Adder 28. Words 29. Scut 33. Flap



People who do very unusual jobs indeed

No 9: The man who poses for photographs on the back of shy authors' books

"My face has appeared on 20 or 30 books, and always as the author. I've been a famous thriller writer, a self-sufficiency expert, a professor of semantics, part of *The Sunday Times* Insight team – you name it, I've been it. With a blonde wig, I've been the occasional Mills and Boon-type authoress."

"Why? It depends, really. Sometimes it's because the author is genuinely shy and retiring, and hates to have his picture taken. Of course, shyness is an inverted form of vanity. Have you ever noticed that the one person in a group

who runs from the camera is the one most obsessed with their appearance? Funny, that. Anyway, the publisher always likes to have a photo on the back, so they get me in."

"Then there's the best-selling author who doesn't like to be recognized in public. So he doesn't want his mug staring out of a million paperbacks, does he? People coming up to him and saying, 'Your characterization was really tops in chapter eight, you old fraud.' They write a little clause in their contract saying they must not be pictured on the cover, so again they get someone like me in."

"Authors are lucky in that they generally don't have to appear in public and even when they do, people don't twig that the bloke in *Russell Hoban* looks nothing like the bloke on the book. It's different if you're a performer. Like, if you're a singer, you can't sing behind a screen. Well, Elton John can sing behind a toupee, huge specs and a grand piano, but even so you can see bits of him."

"That's why I admire Barry

WEDNESDAY PAGE

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY

Home is where the burnt toast is

My daughter tells me she is leaving home. Such moments are never easy for a father, but when the girl is four years old the sense of failure is engulfs me. My wife is busy feeding the baby and my three-year-old son is in the pantry dicing a slug with his Viking sword, so I have no one to turn to but you. If I am honest, this blow is not entirely unexpected; she has been expressing dissatisfaction with the message for some time. We are falling down badly on what you might term the Egon Ronay and Isabella Beaton departments: the toast too black, the bread too crusty, the bunks too hard, the TV too small, the Hoover too loud, the newspapers too dull, the salary too meagre, the weather too wet, that sort of thing. A no-star rating all round; away with the RAC sign, and of course a merciless dubbing in the next issue of *Which Parents?* She has been having a run-in with my wife on the matter of tidiness (I don't know who was upbraiding whom), and has announced that as from Monday next she will be living in the pub. She doesn't say which one, so I suppose I will have to wait for the change of address card like everyone else.

The window-smearer is here today, and all is gloom. His name is Caetano, but I have no intention of making jokes against the Portuguese only against Caetano. He does have a certain scarcity value as the only Portuguese window cleaner in town and charges accordingly. He starts at the top and works downwards – as many Latins are said to do – and the effect is of a shawl being draped over a lampshade; there is darkness where once there was light. He is starting a sorer shade across the panes in time to a throaty rendering of *Victoria de los Angeles* fado, but somehow there are still suds drooling down the glass when he has finished. I really don't know how he does it. I have seen window cleaners from the pointillists and fauvist schools – the dabbers and daubers of their trade – but this chap must be a vorticist, a swirling free former of whom even Wyndham Lewis would have approved. Certainly he is an obscurantist, as the garden is now invisible. I only mention Caetano because at times of family crisis the most disparate elements are hijacked for political ends. I shall return to this theme when things become clearer.



an now offer you a transcript of *Leaving Home* tapes which I e you if I am to expect any sympathy – which I don't. We have abolished that the Waterman's in River Street is to be her v home.

But they don't take children. They do in the garden. I see, and who will look after?

David and Charlotte's Daddy. But he doesn't live at theerman's Arms. David and Charlotte's Mummy he does.

Lam Sing Lun had been up fileting snakes. The tal evidence, waiting probably for the stock pot, lay in eye-catching heap in his den at the Man Wah Kuan Hotel of Hongkong's Lam had agreed to show how to cook the sautéed pigeon that was so good ordered it three times in a and the lesson began, as instructions of Chinese do, with the cleaver. At speed he fashioned better fighting fish from s of carrot and ginger, his showing the irrepressible ure of a man showing off ur won skills.

ese pretty garnishes were interesting as the way he wed his gaze at each new dient on the thick round xing board, assessing how to cut it for speed and ss of cooking, and for impression

it happened I had picked a which is easy to prepare o cook though it may take le longer to explain. The is a bowl of finely ed pigeon with ham, oo shoots, pine nuts, g onions and mushrooms. e sautéed together and mixture is served dry and hot. It is plainly not the food to eat with chopsticks is served with trimmed s of crisp iceberg lettuce a dinner spreads a little dark e sauce on a leaf of lettuce, a spoonful of pigeon, and es a one or two-bit parcel up with the fingers. It is eat deal simpler to make Peking duck and its unpanning pancakes.

he recipe can very well be it with chicken. Guinea or young game birds would overly too, I have not found source of the salted and k Yunnan ham used in na, and use instead Parma or a well flavoured cooked

Me: And will you come and visit me?
Her: No, you'll come and visit me.
Me: Ah.
Her: Can you take me in the car?

I have this recurring nightmare which involves a 17-year-old called Ray who is in love with his motorbike and my daughter, in that order. He is forever disturbing her A level revision and plucking her away on the pillion of his throbbing monster. His opening line is always: "I got the spare scidid, Mr Franks", which is, in fairness to him, meant to be reassuring, but which never fails to have the opposite effect. If only he'd forget the damned scidid I could block the outing on a technicality, but then I suppose he would only try to engage her in some indoor pursuit just as damaging to her interest. I cannot blame her for preferring Ray to André Gide, who probably never in his life roared a Harley Davidson at 80 down Talworth Broadway, or cut a dash in his leathers at the Excel Bowl. Very well, you could return that Ray is unlikely to come up with L'immoraliste. But by the way she ties her arms around his waist like a scarf and leers in triumph at his mates as they all rev off. I suspect that he has no shortage of material.

A change of plan. The Waterman's Arms project is off.

Her: I'm going to live in a swimming pool in Ber-ands.
Me: Really? Who's going to pay?
Her: The Times.
Me: That's jolly kind of them. How much will it cost?
Her: Two pence twenty quid.
Me: Very reasonable.



To revert to Caetano; he has now completed his impression of a total eclipse of the sun and is singing a doleful reprise about some wretched dove that has lost its way in a storm. I know the feeling. Caetano, though it is not entirely his fault, has precipitated this Leaving Home business. He always makes a point of ingratiating himself with the children as they play in the front garden; they then – so he claims – tell him their parents would love the windows cleaned, and by the time the first suds are being draped across your vision, it is too late to stop him, for the poor man has been stricken with a sudden language problem. My daughter has enjoyed my discomfort on many of these occasions, and I still believe it was my hard words with her after the last visit that made her decide it was time to clear out.

Bermuda plan still on. Another rotten night for me, with three Tay dreams on the trot. These ones are so vivid that I creep to my daughter's bedroom just to check that she is still there on the top bunk; that she has not aged 13 years in five hours, and that those are not copies of Gide on the Beatrix Potter shelf. But when I catch a glimpse of her little trousseau, her soft mercerie crammed into a basket for the eight-hour haul from Heathrow, I realize that reality is gaining ground on the dream.

THE TIMES COOK

At its worst, being a Volumix addict is like those first five minutes after you've just missed having a major car crash: a sense of shock and panic, shaking, feeling sick, not being able to see quite clearly or hear what people are saying.

I was five when the war broke out. My parents were both schoolteachers. The whole family lived in awe of my grandfather, who was a country doctor, a fearsome, dogmatic man who instilled in us all a terror of being happy. We moved all the time. We were quite badly bombed. Before I was 16 I had been to 12 schools.

I longed to leave home. My parents were controlling yet confused, reigned on every level. As soon as I could get away I found a job on a local newspaper. I was so desperate to be wanted that it took me over: I spent all day and most of the nights there. I only left to become a mature student at university.

When I was 16 I went to North America and found a job with an advertising company. I was even quite happy but then I started getting depressed and anxious. Soon I grew terribly frightened.

The first doctor I went to see gave me Librium. It made me calmer. I just kept going back to doctors for repeat prescriptions: I seemed to be able to convince them that I needed it. In those days no one said anything about it being addictive. You just took your "trax" along with you as you might your lipstick.

Bit by bit, I built the dose up. From three Librium, I went over to Valium. From three Valium I moved up to four, and then five. First they were 15mg



Carolyn Douglas and Ruth Schmidt conducting an Exploring Parenthood workshop

Growing into parenthood

More and more people are seeking advice to help them to avoid the pitfalls of bringing up their children. Peta Levi explains

with professionals before a crisis erupts.

In 1981 Ruth and Carolyn were invited to give a workshop on parenthood for the Westminster Pastoral Foundation (an organization for training counsellors). Afterwards they sent a report to Dr Hugh Jolly, paediatrician at Charing Cross Hospital. Jolly became interested and spent an afternoon questioning them on their ideas and aims. At the end he suggested they should start a national organization as he felt there was a great need for such workshops. He is now joint sponsor of Exploring Parenthood with Richard Whitfield, Professor of Education at Aston University.

Carolyn is in her early forties and is married with three children; Ruth is in her late thirties and is unmarried. Both are warm and caring. They have selected a team of 12 professionals from people whose work they know well and most of whom have families. This peripatetic team, which includes psychiatrists, psychologists, analysts, therapists and a marriage guidance counsellor, will travel to any part of Britain to give a workshop. They have already held two in London and one in Paris for English-speaking parents abroad (Carolyn is now based in Paris because of her husband's job). Workshops usually take the form of talks from professionals followed by small group discussions. Requests to run workshops have come from groups as varied as the North East Pre-School Playgroups Association, parents representing the National Childbirth Trust and National Housewives Register and a London-based company for their employees, mostly male, who often face stress of various kinds with their families.

The themes of future workshops will include Divorce and separation; Parents and their adolescent children, and Full Circle, from birth to old age, including parenting one's parents. Is such an organization really necessary? I asked a north London GP who for 14 years has run a large family practice. He felt that parents would be unlikely to go to such workshops unless they had a problem, and that the National

Health Service in most parts of the country provides an adequate standard of help for people with specific problems. But, he added, many people are frightened about seeking professional advice, particularly if the problem is emotional rather than physical, and an organization which bridged the gap between parents and professionals would be a good thing.

The doctor also pointed out that most social rules have been successfully challenged over the last 20 years and this had led to insecurity and uncertainty about where the boundaries lie. More children were going to his surgery with physical complaints – headaches, tummy aches and recently a severe case of eczema – which turned out to be caused by emotional stress at home.

Who goes to the Exploring Parenthood workshops? A surprising variety of people – happily married couples, single fathers/mothers, divorced, separated people and one couple who did not have children but wanted to know how a family might affect their lives. One single-parent father, who runs his own business from home, does the cooking and housework and brings up his teenage son and daughter, says he finds the workshops useful because they provide a "professional environment where I can discuss intimate worries with intelligent people – not subjects I particularly want to discuss with my friends. Having to be the mother and father, I want to increase my knowledge of how children develop emotionally and physically, so that I can help them to their potential."

Most, but not all, participants are middle class. One woman who is not, a representative of the One O'Clock Club run by the GLC, says: "Many London working class parents of pre-school children feel isolated, either because they are single parents or because they have moved away from their families. They feel they are constantly being criticized and told what to do, when in fact they are doing a good parenting job, but need their self-confidence built up in order to carry on".

Her observation was supported by the results of a survey just published

in *Woman* magazine. Of 7,000 mothers who replied to a questionnaire, one in seven hardly ever vented out with small children because of the hostility they meet from the general public; the combination of this hostility and the physical problems with push-chairs on public transport revealed that one in three never take their children on trains and one in five don't attempt to travel on a bus; one in three won't go to the local park because of the dogs' dirt or fear of gangs of youths. Considering that 70 per cent of women in Britain don't drive, these are appalling figures.

Don't most people turn to their friends and family for advice on bringing up children? Ruth replied: "The notion that problems can safely be contained within the family is highly idealized. Much misery and thwarting of growth went unnoticed in the past, mainly because people's expectations were more limited and the idea of personal growth and change had not become as acceptable as it is today. An understanding of emotional development is hardly a luxury pursuit for the limited few, but an extension of public health."

Ruth and Carolyn believe there is a tremendous emotional investment in parenthood – often blanched by secrecy because of the fear of failure. The statistics supplied by child guidance clinics are therefore unlikely to give an accurate picture of the general level of stress.

Ruth concludes: "We are trying to disseminate basic information about the requirements for healthy emotional growth and development and to combine parental skills with those of experts to help parents understand the meaning of their own and their children's behaviour, so that they are not shattered by events erupting 'out of the blue', like drug addiction, failure in later life, depression and suicide, wasted lives and ambitions. This process is also one of discovery for both parents and children and can be pleasurable and exciting for both."

The single-parent father quoted earlier commented: "Twenty years ago businessmen scoffed at the idea of sending managers to business school, but today it is accepted that you train in order to become a more effective businessman. Today people may laugh at training parents to parent, but one day people will accept it as part of a normal education".

TALKBACK

Swedish slant

From Bo Carlson, Richmond. Sure

I read the article about Swedish children who are taken into care (Times, May 27) with horror and sadness. However, my reaction was not caused by the plight of children and families subjected to namby-pamby official meddling. My horror was at the gross distortion of truth in the article. My sadness was that *The Times* published it.

For the past 13 years I have been working with issues concerning children in Sweden and abroad. I have also had the opportunity to look into almost all figures concerning children in Sweden.

It is not true that between five and ten times as many children are taken into care in Sweden as in any comparable country. In 1978, for example, 10,187 children under 18 were taken into care by Swedish local authorities. This does not include children voluntarily placed into foster homes by their parents. Even adding voluntary fostering to compulsory orders, the total comes to around 1 per cent of the child population. For Britain the figure is about the same.

The article says that 30,278 decisions were made by the child care authorities in 1979 so that every third child born in Sweden can expect to come to the attention of social workers. This is a distortion. Many of these decisions are multiple, ie, two or three decisions about the same child. Many of the decisions are also responses to requests from parents for nursery school placings of for day-care help for working parents. The conclusions drawn from the statistics in *The Times* article are, therefore, bogus.

Marriage meaning

From Mrs Molly Cross, Warkworth, Northumberland.

As a woman with 39 years' experience of happy married life behind me, during which my husband and I both worked and shared the household jobs, (and this is by no means a unique situation in our more than middle-aged age group), I felt impelled to reply to Veronica Edwards' article on the subject of marriage (May 27). In my opinion, it reveals a total misunderstanding of what marriage is about.

Marriage, at whatever stage, should not be a matter of straining to retain one's independence. If that is the case, then why marry? True freedom involves responsibility, and happiness is not achieved by simply doing your own thing. In the case of marriage, freedom is a two-way process of give and take.

I am sorry for Veronica Edwards. Hers is a shabby substitute for the real thing.

Hard of hearing

From Mrs D. M. Myers, Chorleywood, Herts.

Kathy Robinson's report in First Person (June 1) of her daughter's schooling was good reading. I am sure the hearing-impaired are happy with the increased recognition of their problems. However, while the hearing-impaired child possibly derives great benefit from the type of education Mrs Robinson describes, one wonders what the future will hold socially for such children. From our own observation, a generation is emerging which cannot communicate happily with the hearing – it is very difficult to keep up with them in the long term!

Even more unhappily, they cannot communicate with their hearing-impaired fellows – to the detriment of themselves and their fellows. Parents opting for this type of education should ensure that their children keep in touch with the hearing-impaired.

Out of the valley of tranquilizers

FIRST PERSON

At its worst, being a Volumix addict is like those first five minutes after you've just missed having a major car crash: a sense of shock and panic, shaking, feeling sick, not being able to see quite clearly or hear what people are saying.

I was five when the war broke out. My parents were both schoolteachers. The whole family lived in awe of my grandfather, who was a country doctor, a fearsome, dogmatic man who instilled in us all a terror of being happy. We moved all the time. We were quite badly bombed. Before I was 16 I had been to 12 schools.

I longed to leave home. My parents were controlling yet confused, reigned on every level. As soon as I could get away I found a job on a local newspaper. I was so desperate to be wanted that it took me over: I spent all day and most of the nights there. I only left to become a mature student at university.

When I was 16 I went to North America and found a job with an advertising company. I was even quite happy but then I started getting depressed and anxious. Soon I grew terribly frightened.

The first doctor I went to see gave me Librium. It made me calmer. I just kept going back to doctors for repeat prescriptions: I seemed to be able to convince them that I needed it. In those days no one said anything about it being addictive. You just took your "trax" along with you as you might your lipstick.

Bit by bit, I built the dose up. From three Librium, I went over to Valium. From three Valium I moved up to four, and then five. First they were 15mg

and then I went up to 25mg.

But by that time – some five years after I had taken that first Librium – I was taking other pills as well: for depression, for migraines, for insomnia, for nausea. I had become a pill freak. I was also becoming ashamed. I didn't want anyone to know what I was doing. I moved all the time. We were quite badly bombed. Before I was 16 I had been to 12 schools.

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Bit by bit, I built the dose up. From three Librium, I went over to Valium. From three Valium I moved up to four, and then five. First they were 15mg

and then I went up to 25mg. But then, five years ago, people started appearing at drug addiction units, self-help medical groups and GPs complaining that when they tried to lower the doses of their tranquilizers or get off them altogether, they were suffering appalling physical and mental discomfort.

"It was all anecdotal to start with," explains Professor Lader, whose research team in London is one of the two places, together with Nottingham, where benzodiazepines' dependency and withdrawal is now a subject of investigation and research. "But slowly we started gathering a profile of symptoms: heightened sensitivity to noise and light; pins and needles; metallic tastes in the mouth; feelings of disorientation; nausea; dizziness; palpitations."

Symptoms of severe withdrawal occur, Professor Lader says, after only six months on the upper limit of the recommended dose (30 mg per day) or as little as a month on a very high one. Yet coming off has to be taken seriously – sudden stopping has been known to produce epileptic fits.

Professor Lader agrees that there undoubtedly exist a few people whose anxiety is such that a lifelong dependency on Valium is preferable to any alternative. He believes it is from patients themselves rather than doctors that a proper mistrust of too easy a use of these drugs will come as their powerful properties of dependency become better known.

"Even then," he says, "we are left with an enormous number of people who are dependent, who need to withdraw, who must have the right medical help, and for whom at present there is no provision, no money and very little understanding".

Shona Crawford Poole

Flights of fancy

Bamboo shoots are sold in tins



Winner's triumph

When the Alliance discovered that the new constituency of Windsor and Maidenhead takes in Eton College, they applied without much hope to speak to the pupils there. To their amazement they have been accepted and the candidate, Paul Winner, is to address a meeting of senior masters and boys tomorrow. This is a rare privilege, for the college asks few speakers; true, they had one the other week, but his name was Alexander Solzhenitsyn. I expect the other parties feel they have missed a trick in not approaching the college, since Winner's talk is making headline news in the local press and radio station.

Sea of arms

A new starring role for the deputy leader of the Labour Party aboard the Conservative campaign bus between Bristol and Cardiff is that of Hamlet. Yesterday Healey was transformed, at stroke, by Sir Ronald Millar, Thatcher's speech writer, who declared the *Polaris Apart*:

To be and not to be: that is the answer.
For surely 'tis not beyond the wit of man
(Though something less than nobler in the mind)
To have it both ways with the electorate?
To retain – that is to say, to have and hold –
The slings and arrows of this watery weapon,
Yet simultaneously to "phase it out".
(Over the period of a Parliament)
Unilaterally? But soft! Is't cred-
ible?
Credibility: ay, there's the rub.
The rest is silence.

Blues and Royals

Mrs Thatcher's love of martial music is being stretched to the utmost. She has been woken early on several mornings recently by the sound of regimental bands practising Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade. She is an early waker, but 5.30 am is pushing it a little. I expect she would mind less were it not for the fact that military ceremony has already caused her one problem this campaign: if she is victorious at the polls tomorrow, the PM's proposed government changes will need the Queen's Assent but, as David Butler has pointed out, Her Majesty will be preoccupied with a little affair called Trooping the Colour.

Even if the Alliance is overhauling Labour, the position seems less healthy for the Gang itself. Esal, the bookmakers, are offering 100-1 against all four members being returned to Parliament.

Sincerest form...

I thought for a moment that *The Guardian* was ignoring us, so little were we mentioned in that paper's daily round-ups of Fleet Street's election coverage. However, I noticed in yesterday's edition that they have more than redressed the balance by lifting, lock, stock and boundary, the new improved constituencies guide which our design and map departments so effectively contrived. I have to tell *The Guardian* that, while such full-page advertisements are always welcome, they reproduced our tiny error in the numbering system.

Socialist change

Whatever businesses are going to the wall in Thatcherite Britain, *New Socialist* is not one of them. The Labour Party's "intellectual" bi-monthly has hit such prosperous times that it plans to go monthly, probably from September. But the magazine's success is posing a problem for the editor, James Curran, *Times* columnist (see far right) and senior lecturer at the Polytechnic of Central London. His editorial activities have not endeared him to the rather touchy poly administration, and the re-launch posed a stark choice for him: either become a full-time editor or return to being a full-time poly lecturer. He has chosen the latter, leaving the chair empty for another committed Labour Party journalist. If I had to name a likely successor, I would go for one of the original candidates, Stuart Weir, at present an assistant editor of *New Society*.

The *Haywards Heath Conservatives' poster* "Give Labour an inch and we may end up with a foot" has brought this scrawled rejoinder on a hoarding: "Without a roof, who needs a Thatcher?"

Unsung

The obituaries missed one small but significant piece of information in their tributes to the conductor Sir Anthony Lewis, who died on Sunday. None mentioned that he conducted Joan Sutherland's first recording sessions in 1958, when she sang Handel's dramatic oratorio *Esther*. His encouragement and her success on that occasion were of considerable importance in the development of her early career.

Friends of the Earth have news for the polsters: the Tories are trailing distantly and have no hope of catching the Alliance. Admittedly this is based on a rather sectional canvassing operation, in which FoE assessed one in five of election candidates on their "environmental acceptability". Successful respondents received this special seal of approval. As expected, the Ecology Party scored 100 per cent, Labour 97, the Alliance 86. The Tory return was "statistically insignificant".

PHS

Thatcher pulls it off... this time

by David Watt

When this election campaign started the fashionable view was that "the issue is Mrs Thatcher". This was wrong. The time of Mrs Thatcher as an issue will inevitably come: perhaps in 18 months, perhaps in two or three years, when her popularity – already, in my opinion, past its zenith – becomes inadequate to cope with some major crisis and when her personality becomes a liability instead of an asset.

The issue in this election has been the Labour Party, which has been measured first of all as a more plausible government than the Conservatives, and, when it evidently failed that test after the first week of the campaign, as a more plausible opposition than the Alliance. If tomorrow's vote shows that Labour has failed the second test as well as the first, that will not be the end of the story, of course.

Thanks to the electoral system (whose anomalies, incidentally, are going to be more outrageously exposed by this election than ever before) it is conceivable that the Alliance will become the second largest grouping in the House of Commons on any realistic estimate of its popular vote.

A new Labour leadership – a new generation of leaders for that matter – may therefore be able in the course of a four or five year parliament to put together a quite new left-of-centre coalition that has vitality, credibility and a coherent constituency of interests behind it. Both the Democrats and the Republicans in America have done that at various times since the Civil War, and there is nothing intrinsically hopeless about such a task in Britain. Mrs Thatcher herself implied this the other day when she said that "the Labour Party will not die; it will metamorphose".

She has never had to spell out her future policies, which are shrouded in obscurity

engine of social and financial advancement. There followed boredom at constituency level, sclerosis in the trade union movement and frustration in Parliament. The activists took over the grass roots, the ostriches took over at Westminster.

Power has been the name of the Labour Party's game for the last decade – a power struggle within the party and the enjoyment of government for its own sake by its leaders. No one has been able or has even really tried to redefine national goals

for a progressive party in terms that a changing class constituency can fit is relevant. This is what is losing Labour the election.

This does not mean that the vote for Mrs Thatcher has been an entirely negative one. On the contrary, she has fought a nearly faultless campaign. But it is the business of oppositions to force mistakes at election time. To put it bluntly, Mrs Thatcher has been allowed to get away with it. She has never been obliged to spell out her policies for the future, which still remain shrouded in obscurity, and, above all, she has never been thrown on to the defensive (except momentarily by Sir Robin Day) about unemployment. Labour, the party of union militancy and provocative inefficiency, has been in no position to put the questions.

The result of this was charted vividly in the Harris Opinion Poll in *The Observer* last Sunday. It appears from this that more people in the country believe Labour's policies would reduce unemployment than believe Conservative policies would. More voters, over all, even believed that Labour would be better for their kind of person than the Conservatives. But more have come to the conclusion that the Conservatives would govern "for the good of the country".

There is no way of interpreting these figures other than as an indication that Labour's campaign has completely failed. The majority of the British people evidently believe that unemployment is good for us or at worst a visitation upon us for past sins. Once this self-flagellating mood prevails, the stage is set for the grand entrance of Mrs Thatcher and her "strength through suffering, hope through horror".

She has never had to spell out her future policies, which are shrouded in obscurity

achieved at this stage without a sizeable Conservative majority, even those who do not like Mrs Thatcher and her masochist triumphalism may well regard her victory as a price worth paying.

The trick, however, will be to ensure in the process the preservation of enough of the Alliance party to allow them to consolidate during the next parliament and to take over the torch of moderate opposition if a new Labour Party finally fails to pick it up. This requires the miraculously fine tuning of a very coarse system, but I shall not be surprised on Friday morning to discover that in their wonderful and mysterious way the voters have done again.

The trick will be to ensure the Alliance take up the torch of moderate opposition

The true way to break the mould

JUNE 24 1983

Jock
Bruce-Gardyne

from the fatuous illusion that government can somehow substitute for individual performance.

My generation grew up in an environment in which governments, regardless of party label, claimed to be able by their comparatively superior wisdom to guarantee full employment and a more swiftly growing economy. Because we cannot hope to be a self-sufficient nation, they were always doomed to failure: competitiveness in international trade is not in the gift of gentlemen in Whitehall. So we lost markets. And as successive administrations attempted to compensate for lost competitiveness by debasement of the currency, inflation also gathered momentum.

Then, in a forlorn attempt to catch up on inflation, they tried to usurp the role of management in fixing prices and dividends, negotiating wages, and allocating investment. Since they never had, and – thank God – never would obtain a mandate for an east European-style command economy, it could only end in tears.

Mrs Thatcher has truly "broken the mould". She has returned to management the responsibility to manage. She has restored to the shopfloor the right to insist that those who negotiate on its behalf take cognisance of the consequence of their actions for employment. It has been a painful process – shedding comforting illusions is always going to be that but it has been truly indispensable.

There is still a long way to go. The convention that the public sector exists for the benefit of those who work in it is still too deeply engrained. The next administration will need ministers who see themselves as answerable to the consumer rather than their departmental empire-builders. For only as we shrink the sumptuous expenditures of state can we restore the vitality of the wealth creators and the market venturers. There is no guarantee that the next Tory administration will complete the cure. But that any other would abandon it is a cast-iron certainty. That is the clinching argument for me.

The author, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was Conservative MP for Knutsford. He is not seeking re-election.

James Curran

Freedom for youth – to be unemployed

David Murray usually gets up around 11 o'clock in the morning, and at midday wanders down to the amusement arcade at the centre of Sheffield. In the afternoon, he sometimes calls at his girl friend's workplace for a chat. His favourite haunt in the evenings is a youth club, the Spring Street Project.

Aged 22, he has completed five YOP schemes and wants a proper job. But the last of many he has applied for – as a general labourer – had more than 200 applicants and he did not get it. The experience of not getting anywhere, not doing anything, being rejected, has left a mark that his skinhead hairstyle and very manner only partly conceal.

Yet any noise is bad enough according to the Campaign Against the Airport. Members fear the operators will use aircraft noisier than the Dash 7 and that the airport will be such success that it will be used far more than the applicants now say.

In reply, Mowlem and Brymon state that they are quite happy to accept restrictions on the airport's use, for example, limiting aircraft movements to one every 10 minutes (as against one a minute at Heathrow) and agreeing not to use planes noisier than the Dash 7. But their opponents believe that commercial pressure would lead to such promises being broken.

There is one point on which protesters and proponents agree: the airport is likely to be a great commercial success. The plans envisage that it would ultimately carry one million passengers a year on short-haul routes in Britain and Europe. Mowlem and Brymon have already had applications to fly routes to Manchester, Plymouth and Channel Islands in Britain, plus Paris, Brussels, Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Frankfurt. They are also considering other British cities.

The inquiry may mark only the start of the battle. Mrs Connie Hunt, leader of Campaign Against the Airport, says: "If the inquiry gives the airport the go-ahead we'll do everything we can to sabotage it. We'll sit in the way of the workmen, we'll even camp on the runway. No way are we going to have an airport here."

Approval for an airport bang in the middle of London might appear to be as likely as a landslide victory for the Labour Party tomorrow, but this airport has a strong chance of winning through. First, an opinion poll taken in April for Newham Borough Council shows that twice as many locals are in favour of the airport as are against it. Second, it has the backing of the local planning authority, the LDDC, and, implicitly, the Tory Government, which created the LDDC to revitalise the area. Third, this is an airport with a difference: it is a Stolport.

In layman's terms, Stolport means that the airport will be using planes that take off and land steeply, thus spreading their noise over a small area. The would-be airport operators, Mowlem and Brymon Airways, plan to use Canadian-built Dash 7 aircraft, which are already operating at Stolports in Toronto and Ottawa. These planes are particularly quiet, as even opponents of the docklands airport admit.

An airport in docklands would thus be nothing like Heathrow where the noise stretches about 200 miles from north to south and 30 miles from east to west. In docklands, the noise area would be only two miles long by 600 yards wide and, in addition, peak noise

levels would be far lower. By the Government's scale of measurement, they will not even constitute a "moderate noise nuisance" to local residents.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

ALL THEIR TOMORROWS

Before its late surge in the closing days of the campaign the Alliance election strategy had suffered from a number of drawbacks. First of all its starting position contrasted bleakly with the euphoric results of Crosby, Croydon and Bermondsey (even Hillside was won on a declining trend). Secondly the Alliance phenomenon has always been something of a pollster's dream. It owes its existence to three or four aberrant by-elections while the great majority of Labour defectors in the Commons felt that it would be more prudent to sit tight and not put their change of allegiance to the test of their original electors. The latest polling, incidentally, suggests that a majority of their constituents think that they were wrong to do so.

Thirdly the SDP's origins, and the Liberal revival, derived their spectacular successes more from the apparent failure of the two parties - Thatcherism of the right, Stalinism of the left - than any flowering of a creative new blend of policy in the centre. As Professor Ralph Dahrendorf had earlier remarked rather unkindly of the policies of social democracy: "They promise a better yesterday". The Alliance programme is a worthy compilation of much that has been tried, half-tried or at least seriously considered over the last political generation. But the voters apparently have less idea of these policies than those of the two main parties.

There are more difficulties than that about the policies which the Alliance has put before the electorate. The manifesto is described as a programme for Government. It has not been tested much on the anvil of election argument, partly because the two large parties have been more concerned with each other until the polls suggested they should insure against third party risk. Yet the gap between the nuclear philosophies of the two parts of the Alliance is almost as wide as that between left and right in the Labour Party. Yesterday, for the first time, that showed.

A programme for government cannot afford to be so imprecise and unresolved on that most important and dangerous of all issues. But there are other areas of incoherence or contradiction. The Alliance's income policy is

untried, elaborate and a product of laboratory politics rather than the real rough and tumble world of public sector bargaining and the play of the private sector labour market. Council house sales are given with one hand and taken away with the other. Taxation policy, though creditable, is hardly a programme for any Government in the next parliament, given the unreliability of the Inland Revenue service for such major change. Above all, too there has been the difficulty of a dual leadership in Britain. That is not a system which is likely to command itself to a policy reared on and at home with the two party system, particularly when that system has shown this century that it can satisfactorily accommodate the replacement of one of those parties by a new one.

The other way was for the Alliance to profit from a Tory landslide, reducing the Labour Party to a shadow of its former self. That may in turn induce the Trade Union movement to reconsider the merits of maintaining its link with a historic, though now ineffective, parliamentary protege.

In that the Alliance starts with a built-in disadvantage. It is not just that the gang of four, and their co-defectors, have fought that battle once already within the Labour Party and lost it. Nor is it just that their Liberal allies do not give the impression of being a party which is really serious about government. There seems to be a general and unhealthy obsession with opinion polls rather than with the substance of policies.

Beyond that, this new grouping in British politics has yet to establish a coalition of forces which represents something definite in British society. There is no obvious social base. There is no sense of great corporations in the wings. The Alliance leaders make a virtue of this freedom from such associations, but from the point of view of power it is a political weakness. A political sapling with such shallow roots will find it hard to withstand the wind of history when it blows, and in politics it often blows like a hurricane. In this campaign the Alliance has come far to discard the atmosphere of "a better yesterday". But it may have to face many more tomorrows on its way to power.

WAR OF WORDS OF WAR

It is exceedingly provoking for Labour candidates in this campaign that the apparently impregnable ascendancy of the Prime Minister should be traceable to a war of which many of them for one reason or another disapproved. The Conservatives have made an electioneering virtue of abstaining from what they had no need to do - thrust that chapter in the life of the government and nation in front of the electorate. The Falklands expedition is there, a large political fact, fresh in the memory, working like leaven in the Tory loaf. The only way, in fact, in which the Conservatives might have thrown away some of that advantage was by making an exhibition of it. Some of the party's candidates have been making more of it in their constituency campaigns than others, but no Conservative campaigner with access to a nation-wide public address system has sought to stir those many active memories.

The war itself was equally plainly out of bounds to the opposition parties. There might have been something to be made, though little has been made, of future policy towards

the islands and towards Argentina; but the campaign itself, as ground from which to assault the Government or the Prime Minister in particular, was as minuscule as the environs of Stanley after liberation.

The Alliance has been scrupulously prudent. So was Labour until Mr Kinnock and Mr Healey blundered in. Mr Kinnock's first reference was to the sinking of the Belgrano. That was in reasonably measured terms and detonated no explosion. But as an election thrust it was worse than useless. There are sharp questions to be answered about that episode, but they are not the sort that get an answer on the hustings. As it was, his tally merely reminded people of the naval action in the South Atlantic, a general cause of pride; and as for the Belgrano: she was at sea, was she not, hostilities had opened, she was escorted, she was a potential threat to the seaborne expeditionary force... for most people, including most of those whose vote Mr Kinnock might hope to attract, that is reason enough for the sinking, no matter about speculation that another course might have

averted a war that was briefly fought and brilliantly won.

Mr Healey's "she gloried in slaughter" and Mr Kinnock's "guts on the ground" are cries of exasperation of a different order, a wish to wound. Neither Mr Healey's half withdrawal nor Mr Kinnock's laboured explanation to the relatives of the dead that he meant no offence to them, exclusively to Mrs Thatcher, can efface the effect of their exuberance. And the effect is to contribute to the catalogue of self-inflicted injuries that have disabled the Labour Party for this election.

For most British people then and even more in retrospect, once the Falklands were seized by Argentina it was necessary to fight for their recovery; the expedition brought glory on the armed services and credit on the Government that mounted it; the whole episode, suffused by victory, reflected well on Britain in resolution and execution. That national experience as much as anything has put the Prime Minister beyond the reach of her political adversaries in this election, and it persists to smother those who would wound her on account of it.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SHADOWS

Like the rest of Whitehall, the secret services have a general election drill. The Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, prepares analyses of world trouble spots ready to brief new ministers. The Director-General of the Security Service, MI5, dusts off his files on politicians whom the victorious party leader might wish to appoint to ministerial posts. A fast, discreet, unacknowledged system exists for warning the Prime Minister of any compromising material held by MI5 on MPs or peers which might affect their fitness for office.

The guardians of national security will remember the 1983 general election for another reason. For the first time since the secret services were founded in the Edwardian era they have become an issue between the parties. The Labour manifesto pledges a reform in the shape of a Security Act to regulate the clandestine agencies and a parliamentary select committee to monitor them. Behind the service paragraph on the security services in the party's programme lies an 80-page report published by Labour's National Executive

budget controllers, mainly located in the Cabinet Office, tends to err on the side of caution and, if pressed, would side with the gatherers. But the customers, senior officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence, take a more reformist line.

They could live with an element of Parliamentary oversight, though not in the form proposed by Labour. They recommend a compromise - a select committee of Privy Councillors modelled on the Franks team which investigated the origins of the Falklands War. Would it not be prudent for a Conservative administration devoted to the maintenance of national security, preferably on the foundation of bipartisanship between the parties, to construct a system of scrutiny which would command the support of all but a few on the hard left? Conservative rule, unlike its need for security and intelligence, will not be perpetual. The issue is too serious to be left at the mercy of faction.

Yet the intelligence community is not monolithic in its view of the practicability or desirability of change in the accountability of their secret world. The gatherers, the men of MI6 and the Government Communications Headquarters, rest their case on the traditional maxim that to remain effective and secure the secret services must remain just that, secret. They represent the party of no change under any circumstances. The middlemen, the intelligence assessors, co-ordinators and

Last-minute reflections on general election issues

From Mr Martin Hasseck

Sir, What would our reaction be here in Britain if, prior to an address at a rally in Moscow by Mr Andropov, attended by 25,000 "foot-stamping, flag-waving, horn blowing" (report, June 6) young communists, one of the enthusiasts remarked: "Let's bomb Britain" and this display was shown nationally on the Soviet Union television network?

MARTIN HASSECK,
104 Holders Hill Road, NW4.

From Mr A. R. Isserlis

Sir, To Baroness Sharp's affectionate admirers there was delicious irony in her letter on June 3. She first rebuked Mrs Thatcher for an alleged tendency to be dictatorial. And then in effect she commended as *non-dictatorial* an Alliance led by Mrs Williams (who sought to force all schools into one) and irrespective of official advice or local or parental wishes; Dr Owen (who was a persistent hector both in the NHS and in the Foreign Office); Mr Jenkins (a successful proponent of state dictatorship on racial grounds over the freedom of employees to hire or not hire whom they choose); and Mr Steele (as yet unsuccessful proponent of state dictatorship over the freedom of employees to pay their workforce what the market justifies).

In fact, if these particular power-seekers are any guide, an Alliance or Alliance-influenced government would be just as dictatorial as a Labour one - though perhaps initially, like the Mensheviks, in a more genteel furtive way. Conservatives by contrast seek to reduce the areas that any government has power to be dictatorial about.

Our first woman Prime Minister does indeed have a reputation for being firm and sometimes abrasive. So did our first woman permanent secretary. But would that have been held against them if they had been men?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. ISSERLIS,
Rose and Crown Cottage,
Upton,
Burford,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr C. L. Fox

Sir, Lady Sharp (June 3) is mistaken. The parliamentary democracy we have had since the last war is not the sort of government that we, or our ancestors, fought for. We have had in those years a succession of politicians who have been far too ready to let power pass to those without responsibility, namely the trade unions and the Civil Service. (I do not expect Lady Sharp to agree as regards the latter) such manoeuvres, to one of my age, are reminiscent of those who brought France to her knees in 1940.

We now have a prime minister who has the ability, the courage, and the drive to attempt to change all that: one moreover who has the habit, rare in post-1945 Westminster, of placing his country before her party or herself. It would seem that the electorate - or a good part of it - has at last realized her quality.

Yours sincerely,
C. L. FOX,
Heatherrow,
The Ridges,
Finchampstead,
Berkshire.

From the General Secretary of the Labour Party

Sir, Your leader, "House-proud politics" (May 30), fails to understand Labour's housing policies.

We believe in catering for the needs of those who want or need to rent and those who want to own.

Promotion of one tenure at the expense of another, as is being done through compulsory sales, doubling rents and large discounts, is irresponsible. It is not only the badly housed, the homeless and young couples who suffer, but those who buy who cannot really afford the repayments or the cost of repairs.

Our housing policies seek to break down the rigid and socially disfiguring divide between tenures. The public rented and owner-occupied sectors should co-exist on a basis of equal social esteem. Equal treatment will make it much easier for households to move between tenures as their needs and preferences change.

A key element to achieving equality of esteem is to provide the right quantity and quality of housing. Our proposals to boost housebuilding will help begin to overcome the shortage and deteriorating quality of the stock to which your report on Shelter's fears draws attention.

Military degrees

From Professor Alan James

Sir, It would be unfortunate if your report (June 3) of the Duke of Edinburgh's speech calling for degrees in military science gave the impression that the subject is ignored in Britain's universities and polytechnics. Degrees in international relations and war studies at both the undergraduate and post-graduate levels are now offered by a number of institutions and most of the topics mentioned by the Duke as appropriate for a military degree are already taught.

Moreover, those taking such courses quite often include serving officers. Experience at one's own university, Keele, suggests that they not only enjoy the academic study of the international and military scenes but go back to the Services feeling much better fitted for their jobs.

However, it is certainly the case that much more could be done in this area and it would seem wise to build on the strengths which already exist in our educational system. Some kind of formal recognition

From Professor Peter Self

Sir, Thinking about this election, the analogy with the 1930s is all too close. The dominant paradigm, to which Mrs Thatcher fully subscribes, is one of sacrificing everything else in the cause of more effective international economic and military competition. Since most other governments are doing the same (although not always so ruthlessly) the likely result under present world conditions will be the mutual export of unemployment and economic disruption, followed by war, which may or may not be terminal.

If and when the dust clears we shall discover the values now neglected; the new importance of environmental conservation, the desirability of controlling technology for the sake of more stability and humanism, the value of local community life and local democracy, the imperative of being generous to the unfortunate, and that other imperative of taking risks for the cause of peace, not the chimaera of superior destructive power.

Among the Thatcherites there seems only an unimaginative contempt for these values. On the left there is still too little realization of the policies and sacrifices which these values will entail, yet at least there is some glimpse of the way to a better future.

Yours etc,
PETER SELF,
Research School of Social Sciences,
The Australian National University,
Box 4, PO, Canberra, ACT,
Australia, 2600,
June 1.

From Mr Peter J. Lord Smith

Sir, It is surely significant that on Sunday 15,000-20,000 attended the People's March for Jobs, whilst nearly 20 times that number went to Stansted Airport to see the space shuttle, Enterprise.

Yours truly,
PETER J. LORD SMITH,
7 Finchcroft Lane,
Prestbury,
Cheltenham Spa,
Gloucestershire,
June 6.

From Mr George Warr

Sir, I was pleased to see that on June 3 the important issues continued to dominate your columns.

I refer, of course, to your science report on the blood temperature of the giant squid and your no less illuminating archaeological researches into the composition of Roman faces.

Congratulations on raising and broadening the level of debate in this campaign.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WARR,
2 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4.

June 4.

Charitable functions

From the Chairman of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, May I return to the matter I raised with you in my letter of April 15? This is the vexed question of "political activity" by charities.

I argued then that charitable voluntary organisations should be acknowledged to have a right to contribute to debates on public policy and administration, but not to seek to influence the electoral process in favour of, or against, any person or party.

We are now nearing the end of an election campaign. This national council has been heartened by the recognition accorded to the voluntary sector by the Conservative and Labour parties and by the Alliance in their manifestos. What is less clear, however, is their attitudes

to farmers during that period, of which I was one, were invited to put their names into a hat, at farm machinery public auction sales, for the privilege of paying the new price for a second-hand machine. Such was the shortage.

Today, tractor manufacturers are offering up to 27½ per cent discount on a brand new model.

Although the statement made by the politicians is true, the inference is non-sequitur.

Yours truly,
GEORGE SCALES,
Scales (Farms) Limited,
Cobblers Piece,
Abbotts Roding,
Essex.

June 5.

From Miss Caroline Hobhouse

Sir, This bizarre and in many ways disastrous election has one redeeming feature. It offers for the first time for many years a genuine incentive to the reluctant or undecided voter in a constituency without an established, effective and experienced sitting member to vote for the candidate who, regardless of party, can best be relied upon to represent the interests of the constituency and to work effectively towards solving any particular social, economic or environmental problems affecting those who live there.

Parliament would be a better place if there were fewer carpet-baggers, absentee backbenchers and "token resident" members, and more genuinely regional - and ethnic minority - members.

If every floating voter votes on Thursday for candidate rather than party the result could be interesting indeed.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE HOBHOUSE,
19 Campden Grove, W8.

From Mr George Warr

Sir, I was pleased to see that on June 3 the important issues continued to dominate your columns.

I refer, of course, to your science report on the blood temperature of the giant squid and your no less illuminating archaeological researches into the composition of Roman faces.

Congratulations on raising and broadening the level of debate in this campaign.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WARR,
2 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4.

June 4.

It should be added that the Quebec Agreement of 1943 between the United States and the United Kingdom had included a clause, "we will not use [atomic weapons] against third parties without each other's consent". The clause was not restricted to United Kingdom bases and indeed, in accordance with it, British consent to the use of atomic bombs against Japan was duly requested and duly given.

This clause was, however, surrendered without replacement, by the British in a new atomic agreement in January, 1948. The only person to question this surrender was the then Vice-Chief of the Air Staff, Sir William Dickson. Yours faithfully,

MARGARET GOWING,
History Faculty,
Indian Institute,
Broad Street,
Oxford,
June 3.

From Mr Patrick Allen

Sir, In her discussion with "Mr Day" on *Panorama* recently, Mrs Thatcher appeared to be saying we do not need "dual key" for cruise because we can trust the Americans and we do not need Polaris because we can't. I trust someone in Central Office can sort this out.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK ALLEN,
42 Hawkhurst Way,
Cambridge.

Last resort

From the Reverend John Ticehurst

Sir, The North Devon District Council has just published an advertisement telling the residents of Ilfracombe, Combe Martin, Lynton and Woolacombe (a total population in the winter of some 14,000, more than doubled in the holiday months) that the local nuclear air-raid shelter has been finished, in compliance with the 1979 Civil Defence Act.

Fewer than one in 100 of the permanent population will be able to get in, for it holds just 1

Investment and Finance
City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

 City Office
 200 Gray's Inn Road
 London WC1X 8EZ
 Telephone 01-537 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

 FT Index: 710.3 up 6.9
 FT Gilts: 82.56 down 0.21
 Bargain: 13,071
 Tysing Hall USM Index: 170.1 up 2.0
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 8475.30 down 30.82
 Hongkong: Hang Seng index 881.57 down 21.22
 New York Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1212.64 down 0.80

CURRENCIES

 LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5720 down 50pts
 Index 86.8 down 0.2
 DM 4.0375 down 0.0125
 Fr 12.1225 up 0.0525
 Yen 37.75 down 2.75
 Dollar
 Index 125.5 up 0.1
 DM 2.5680 down 15pts
 Gold
 \$400.75 down \$6.25
 NEW YORK LATEST
 Gold \$400.25
 Sterling \$1.5725

INTEREST RATES

 Domestic rates:
 Base rates
 3 month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar \$11 1/2-11 3/4
 3 month DM 14 1/2-14 3/4
 3 month Fr 14 1/2-14 3/4
 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period May 4 to June 7, 1983 inclusive: 10.334 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

 Helical Bar 33p+7p
 H. Ingram 60p+12p
 N. Simon £19.50+£3.75
 Pobjy Pock £17.50+£2.50
 Ldn & N'thern 91p+13p
 Cornell 125p+15p
 Lake & Elliot 18-4p
 Atlantic Res. 47p-8p
 Wicking P. 38p-4p
 Leslie 235p-20p
 Wh'lock M. 26p-2p
 Milford Dks 66p-6p

TODAY

 Interims: Westlands.
 Finales: N. Brown Invest, Bulmer and Lumb, Gt Portland Estates, Hill Samuel, LCP Holdings, Lyons Holdings, Pegler Hattersley, TR North America Invest, Henry Wigلات.

NOTEBOOK

Reed International staged a better than expected recovery in the final quarter of its last financial year, but for the year as a whole a big fall in overseas operating profits led to a 15 per cent fall in pretax profit. The present year has got off to a healthy start.

Grindlays Bank, owned jointly by Citibank and Grindlays Holdings, is again the subject of takeover talk.

Sketchley's, the dry-cleaning group, looks to have good prospects for the present year having closed down the textile division which lost £70,000 in the last financial year.

Page 21

BTR increases stake in Tilling

BTR bought a further 2.5 million shares in Tilling yesterday at a price of 225p ex dividend. Added to an existing 580,000 shares which it acquired late in after hours trading on Monday this takes the BTR stake up to 28.5 per cent.

It is expected to be back in the market this morning, and is prepared to buy up to the maximum 30 per cent allowed under the takeover code.

The number of acceptances received by the registrar is believed to have been high yesterday, although there is no indication of the number of shares these accounted for. The issue will be decided today, the closing date for the bid, when the leading institutional shareholders come off the fence.

JOBS ISSUE: Half of Britain's unemployment is due to the world slump. That makes the policies decided at Williamsburg as crucial as the election. Graham Seaseant asks if they will work

Page 22

\$300m LOAN: Oman has raised a \$300m syndicated loan arranged by Gulf International Bank. The loan is for seven years at 1.5 per cent over the London Interbank Offered Rate for two years and 3/4 per cent over Libor for the duration.

NEW CHAIRMAN: Mr John Milne will be the new chairman of Blue Circle Industries. He will combine the post with his position of group managing director. He succeeds Sir Rowland Wright.

WALL STREET

Shares fail to recover

New York (AP-Dow Jones) Stocks were mixed after failing to recover from their early declines yesterday and trading was moderate.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 2 1/2 points after cutting its initial drop of nearly 4 points. The transportation index was pushed to a gain of almost 6 points. Declining issues were ahead of advances.

Mr Harry Laubscher, market analyst for Praxie Webber, said that it was a mixed market with the industrials down while the transports were up.

Mr Laubscher was urging a lightening-up during periods of strength. "We see a possible move to the 1,150 to 1,120 area - of the Dow Jones Industrial average - over the next month or two but the basic bull trend is undisturbed. There are signs that distribution and profit-taking is increasing while buying demand is increasing for the cyclicals and the blue chip stocks are coming under pressure."

American Telephone & Telegraph trading at 4 1/4, up 1/4; International Business Machines 116, up 3/4; General Motors 70 1/2, up 1/2; Bethlehem Steel 24 1/2, unchanged; General Electric 52, up 1 1/2; Deppon 48 1/2, unchanged; Newark Mining 56, off 1/2; Union Pacific 55 1/2, off 1/2; Exxon 33 1/2, off 1/2; Southern Pacific 9 1/2, off 1/2; and Chicago North Western 90 1/2, off 1/2.

Textron was up 4 1/2 to 159 1/2; Texas Instruments up 1 at 169; Cetec up 4 1/4 to 64 1/2; E-Systems up 2 1/2 to 41 1/2; Shell Oil off 1 at 41; Etinghouse Electric off 1/2.

DoT moves on mystery investors

By Philip Robinson

The Department of Trade yesterday launched an official investigation to unmask the mystery shareholders behind Westminster Property Group.

The London-based investment and property development group has been the subject of an unsuccessful takeover bid from Mr Jim Raper and his St Piran mining group, which owns 29 per cent.

Mr Raper has in the past drawn criticism from the Department of Trade and Takeover Panel. About two years ago, the Stock Exchange suspended the shares of St Piran and two of its quoted subsidiaries to block a takeover bid by Mr Raper's Gasco Holdings.

Westminster asked the department to investigate after its own attempts to flush out beneficial owners of share stakes came to nothing.

Last month the company passed details of a mysterious slate of share buying to the Takeover Panel. A fortnight ago a 300-page report went to the Department of Trade from Clifford Turner, the company's solicitors.

But Mr Patrick Ravenhill, the Westminster chairman, was reluctant to discuss details last night. "I don't want to discuss who owns the shares that worry us. It's a long list."

At the group's annual meeting last month Mr Ravenhill expressed concern at recent share buying, feeling it might be linked with existing shareholders and could constitute a "concert party".

Industry

Industry costs fall: interest rate fears subside

Record consumer spending backs Government's recovery claims

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Government claims that a sturdy recovery is under way and inflation well under control received some pre-election encouragement yesterday from official figures. These showed consumer spending in the shops at record levels in April, a further drop in the cost of industry's fuel and raw materials last month and only a modest increase in the prices charged for goods leaving Britain's factories.

In addition, City fears that a selected Conservative Government would raise interest rates to curb excessive monetary growth were calmed when the Bank of England announced that the most closely-watched money measure, sterling M3, grew by an estimated 3 per cent in the month to mid-May, less than half the extraordinary April surge of 1.9 per cent.

But Britain's balance of payments surplus on current account fell to £445m in the first quarter this year from £1,790m in the final quarter of 1982.

The pound lost 50 points against the dollar yesterday to close in quiet trading at \$1.5720.

Traders said that some holders of sterling on Monday sold yesterday at a profit, thereby exerting some downward pressure on the currency.

Gold, however, was very nervous, and lost \$6.25 to \$400.25 an ounce in London. But neither the impending

1982, despite a better performance on invisible trade than earlier estimates had suggested.

Capital outflows almost doubled to £2,400m from £1,300m, according to the Central Statistical Office, while overseas investment in stocks and shares totalled £1,600m, continuing the rise of financial assets abroad sparked off by the abolition of exchange controls four years ago.

Buoyant consumer demand

has been the driving force behind the tentative economic upswing this year, boosted by easier credit terms, lower mortgage rates and rising living standards for those in work, as pay has outstripped price rises.

Business in the shops in April jumped by nearly 1 per cent to the highest level on record, well above provisional estimates, with the index of retail sales at 112.9 (1978 = 100), more than 6 per cent up on a year earlier.

In the first four months of

this year the volume of trade

was 3 per cent higher than the

average for 1982, compared with Treasury forecasts for a 2 1/2

per cent rise in consumer spending overall.

The claim by ministers that inflation, now at 4 per cent, will rise only modestly in the months ahead to stay below 6 per cent is supported by the latest pound of sterling terms, more than offsetting higher prices for food commodities.

Over the year to May, costs

rose by 6.4 per cent, marking a

significant slowdown from

earlier in the year.

The news that money growth

moderated in May also increases

the chances that interest rates

may fall after the election, taking

the pressure off the building

societies to put their mortgage

rates up.

This is helpful for inflation,

because mortgage costs are

included in the retail prices

index, and for economic recov-

ery, because it keeps cash in

people's pockets.

The market is torn between

fears of inflation on the one

hand and deflation on the other.

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COMMODITIES									
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	1,100 tonnes	London 2,000 tonnes	2,000 tonnes	2,000 tonnes	2,000 tonnes	2,000 tonnes	2,000 tonnes	2,000 tonnes	2,000 tonnes
Prices in pounds per metric ton									
Silver in pounds per metric ton	1,072.5-1,090	1,072.5-1,090	1,072.5-1,090	1,072.5-1,090	1,072.5-1,090	1,072.5-1,090	1,072.5-1,090	1,072.5-1,090	1,072.5-1,090
Yesterd. Close									
High grade copper	1,072.5-1,077	1,072.5-1,077	1,072.5-1,077	1,072.5-1,077	1,072.5-1,077	1,072.5-1,077	1,072.5-1,077	1,072.5-1,077	1,072.5-1,077
Three month copper?	1,051-1,062.5	1,051-1,062.5	1,051-1,062.5	1,051-1,062.5	1,051-1,062.5	1,051-1,062.5	1,051-1,062.5	1,051-1,062.5	1,051-1,062.5
Gold	1,051-1,052.5	1,051-1,052.5	1,051-1,052.5	1,051-1,052.5	1,051-1,052.5	1,051-1,052.5	1,051-1,052.5	1,051-1,052.5	1,051-1,052.5
Three month Tin cash	1,040.5-1,045	1,040.5-1,045	1,040.5-1,045	1,040.5-1,045	1,040.5-1,045	1,040.5-1,045	1,040.5-1,045	1,040.5-1,045	1,040.5-1,045
Three month Zinc cash	2,022-2,025	2,022-2,025	2,022-2,025	2,022-2,025	2,022-2,025	2,022-2,025	2,022-2,025	2,022-2,025	2,022-2,025
Three month Lead cash	1,472-1,475	1,472-1,475	1,472-1,475	1,472-1,475	1,472-1,475	1,472-1,475	1,472-1,475	1,472-1,475	1,472-1,475
Three month Copper?	1,471-1,472.5	1,471-1,472.5	1,471-1,472.5	1,471-1,472.5	1,471-1,472.5	1,471-1,472.5	1,471-1,472.5	1,471-1,472.5	1,471-1,472.5
Three month Silver cash	794.5-795.5	794.5-795.5	794.5-795.5	794.5-795.5	794.5-795.5	794.5-795.5	794.5-795.5	794.5-795.5	794.5-795.5
Three month Nickel cash	3,130.5-3,135	3,130.5-3,135	3,130.5-3,135	3,130.5-3,135	3,130.5-3,135	3,130.5-3,135	3,130.5-3,135	3,130.5-3,135	3,130.5-3,135
Three month Copper?	3,200-3,205	3,200-3,205	3,200-3,205	3,200-3,205	3,200-3,205	3,200-3,205	3,200-3,205	3,200-3,205	3,200-3,205
LIVE TURNOVER									
Copper (higher grade) mil. ton	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350
Standard cash	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350	52,350
March									

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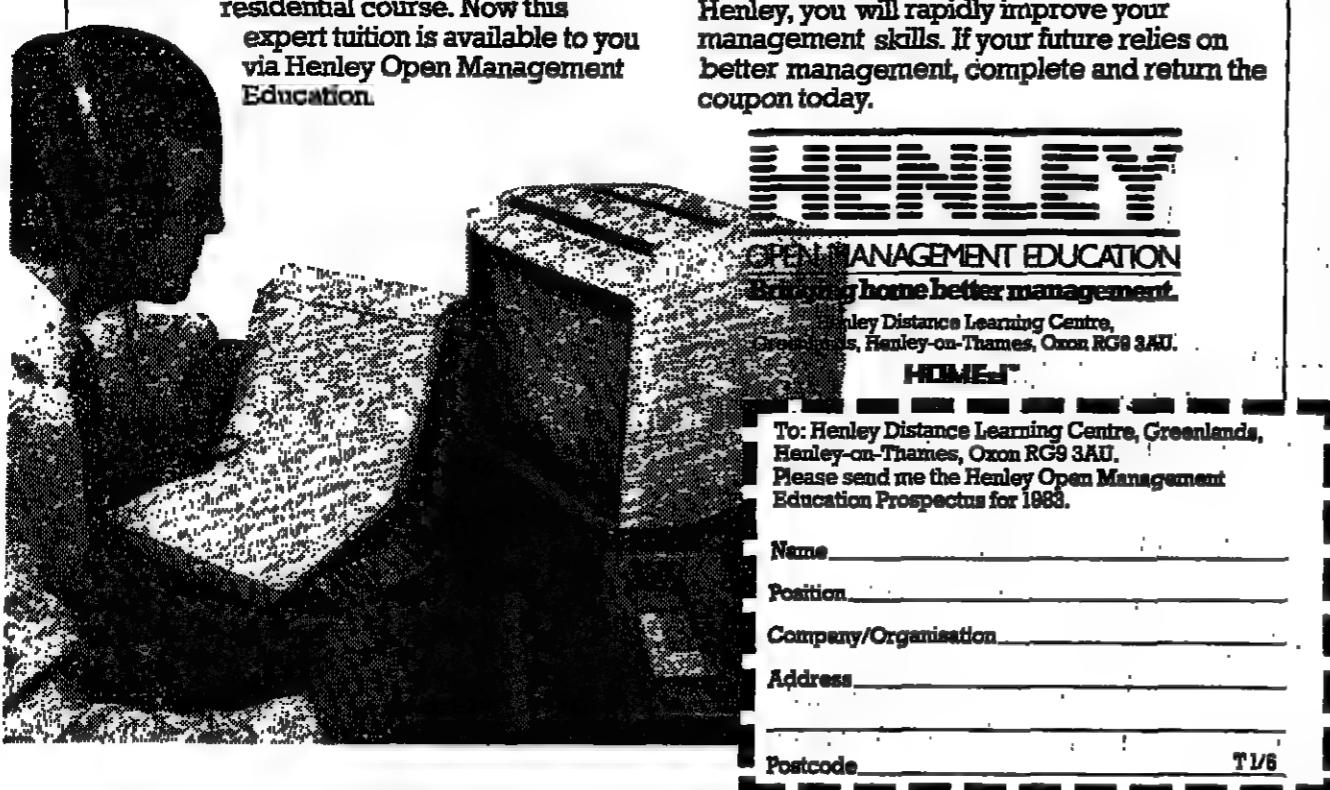
Position _____

Company/Organisation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

T1/6



AN IMPRESSIVE GROWTH RATE

Five years ago the Group made a pre-tax profit of £51.9 million - last year the profit was £90 million and in the previous year - 1981 - over £100 million. In the world economy, and particularly in the construction sector, this five year period has been one of great difficulty - against this background your Group achieved a compound growth rate of 15 per cent a year.

During this same period the Group has brought into production in its subsidiary and associate companies overseas, no less than ten new cement plants with the capacity to produce nearly eight million tonnes a year.

We also moved outside our traditional cement business with the acquisition of Armitage Shanks which makes ceramic sanitaryware and other bathroom products.

OUR STRATEGY - EXPANSION OVERSEAS AND DIVERSIFICATION

These moves were in pursuance of a strategy, firstly of expanding overseas, where we foresaw greater growth in demand for our product, and secondly of selective diversification into products new to us. This wide geographical spread has stood us in good stead through the recession and remains one of our principal strengths.

In 1982, Mexico and Chile, which had achieved exceptional growth in the previous year, faltered - profits from the Americas fell by £37 million from the previous year. The fact that our Group profits overall fell by no more than £14 million reflects encouraging performances elsewhere. Malaysia and Nigeria did particularly well, as did Australia.

A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN UK PROFITS

I am particularly pleased to report a substantial improvement in profits from our UK

cement operations - achieved against a price that was held throughout the year and indeed, reduced marginally in some areas.

We are continuing to improve the efficiency of our UK plants particularly in energy consumption. Shoreham Works has now been converted from wet to semi-

The plants are dry process units, the management is of high calibre and last but not least, we believe the price was about right!

We have also been active in other sectors of the USA. Last year our subsidiary Armitage Shanks acquired a ceramic sanitaryware manufacturer Kilgore

Ceramic Corporation in Texas, which has already exceeded expectations and is clearly destined to be an increasingly important contributor to the success of the Armitage Shanks Group of companies.

1983 - AND WHAT IT HOLDS

Overseas, most economies are in recession and 1983 is not going to be a year of growth for us. The problems of Mexico and Chile will take time to resolve. However, the substantial investment by all our cement manufacturing subsidiaries and associates in modern, efficient dry process plants will enable us to reap full benefit from these works as the world economy pulls out of recession.

In the UK, cement sales to date are only modestly above those of the same period last year, with the exceptionally wet weather holding back construction activity. Housing starts are up significantly but recovery in the industrial and commercial sectors is less in evidence.

For the year as a whole we expect to see some further increases in UK cement consumption, but the main contribution to maintaining margins will come from improvements in efficiency.

Inflation is continuing to fall and interest rates have come down so conditions are undoubtedly becoming more favourable for the construction industry.

PRESENTING THE FULL PICTURE OF BLUE CIRCLE

Points from the address by the Chairman Sir Rowland Wright, CBE, to the Annual General Meeting on June 7.

dry process and similar conversions of two kilns at Northfleet will be completed soon. A dry process kiln is to be built at Cauldon Works to replace existing facilities and up-dating of Dunbar Works is projected.

ABERTHAW CEMENT - A WELCOME ADDITION

This company presently produces about 800,000 tonnes of cement a year but we believe that, with additional expenditure, its efficiency can be further improved and its production increased.

This will provide us with more capacity in the West Country and so relieve demand on older, less efficient plants. It will permit some rationalisation of our distribution facilities in that part of the country and it also integrates well with the proposal to build a new plant at Oxford later this decade. We have already established a good working relationship with Abertaw and I welcome them to the Blue Circle fold.

THE USA - A NEW MARKET

Some two weeks ago we completed the acquisition of three cement plants and a lime plant in the United States.

For copies of the full text of the Chairman's statement and the Company's Report and Accounts, please write to the Company Secretary, Blue Circle Industries PLC, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BJ.

18

Blue Circle

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Sandy McLachlan

Reed's £21m exceeds City hopes

Grindlays

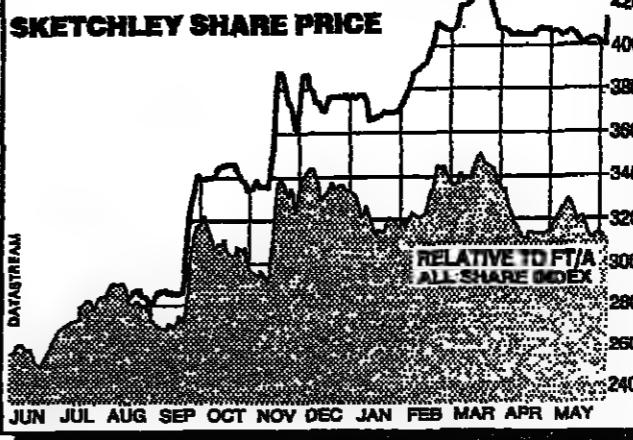
There must be many outside shareholders in Grindlays who would be only too happy to see the bank's shareholding sorted out. Grindlays, which evolved in the days of the British Empire, serving the needs of trade in an out of the old colonial territories, has turned in a painfully lacklustre performance in recent years. Earnings per share halved between 1979 and last year.

Last year also Grindlays raised nearly £90m from selling its Hongkong subsidiary and its stake in National Bank of Dubai but it is far from clear where Grindlays is heading and being sandwiched between Citibank and Lloyds Bank cannot make strategic decision-making easy.

Citibank owns 49 per cent of Grindlays Bank. The rest is held by the publicly quoted Grindlays Holdings in which Lloyds Bank has 41 per cent and the Bahrain and Middle East Bank 11 per cent.

Citibank has long been rumoured as a seller and this week's jump in the Grindlays share price was based on hopes that a deal was close which could lead to a full takeover bid.

Whether anything will materialize remains to be seen, and seasoned Grindlays watchers must be telling themselves that they have heard all this before.



Sketchley

Year to 3.4.83
Pre-tax profit £9.9m (£7.3m)
Statutory earnings 33.5p (27.3p)
Turnover £1.809m (£1.859m)
Net final dividend 10p making 14p (same)
Share price 296p (up 6p) Yield 4.7 per cent
Dividend payable 16/6/83

Final quarter figures from Reed International were ahead of market expectations at £20.9m for three months to April 4 against £15.9m for the comparable period last year.

After an initial 12p rise the shares finished the day up better at 296p, and the last quarter improvement has helped to make up for the disappointing first half.

It brings pre-tax profits for the year to £50.9m against £71.6m (although the group is quick to point out, on current cost basis, operating profit for the year is up by £22m as a result of lower inflation in Britain).

More important for the future, however, is the clear-out

that Reed has achieved in the past year. Above the line it has

taken in exceptional items of £14.6m, £9m of which occurred in the final quarter, including the one-off £4m closure costs of the Tovil mill.

Below the line, as previously indicated, Reed has written off the whole of the £18.7m loss on the sale of Oldhams to British Printing and Communications Corporation. After the maintained dividend, this leaves retained earnings sharply down at £4.3m against £27.6m the previous year, but again it is another non-recurring problem out of the way.

For the first time, Reed has broken its trading profit into 10 separate divisions, plus an item for central costs. This shows remarkably good results from Mirror Group Newspapers, where profits were up by a factor of almost four. It also highlights the problem areas of decorative products, where there was a trading loss of £10m.

The group is satisfied with the final quarter improvement last year and has had a healthy start to the current year. With uncertainties over both currency movements and newspaper prices, it is not committing itself about prospects, although it is pleased that the North American Wallcovering problems have been solved.

The shares look a much better bet than some other companies offering a yield of 4.7 per cent.

Profits in the cleaning division - which includes the high street shops - were well ahead at £3.4m against £2.6m

Granville & Co Limited.									
(Formerly M. J. H. Nightingale & Co, Limited)									
27/28 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-521 1212									

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INTERNAL, A STRIKING FEATURE IS THE CENTRAL ATRIUM RISING THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING AND CREATING LIGHT AND SPACE AS WELL AS AN EXTENSIVE OPEN GROUND FLOOR RECEPTION.

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BURY COURT HOUSE

CITY OF LONDON EC3

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On election eve, Graham Searjeant assesses policies that will affect job-queues

Making the Williamsburg strategy work

The only clear consensus to emerge from the general election campaign is that unemployment - and how to cure it - is the biggest issue on which voters have to decide Britain's national strategy tomorrow. With only slightly less consensus, it has emerged that roughly half Britain's rising unemployment stemmed from government policies (or Britain's special long-run problems) and half from the Williamsburg summit since the 1970s.

There was, therefore, more than a touch of irony when, only after long heart-searching, Mrs Thatcher decided to make a hurried overnight visit to the Williamsburg summit as an interruption to the election campaign. For if the election was to set the course for policy on domestically generated unemployment then the summit was its nearest equivalent in setting global policy on the world slump and how to handle recession.

There is no reason to think that global strategies will have any more or less effect on the job queues than policies pursued after the election at home.

Whatever happens tomorrow, Mrs Thatcher's cues certainly prevailed at Williamsburg. The message of the seven leaders' communiqué, as from the talks themselves, was that only vigilance against inflation, sound money, cuts in "structural" budget deficits through controlled spending on transfer payments and lower interest rates will make room for a natural and enduring economic recovery.

Indeed, with the possible and vital exception of exchange rate targets, the advanced countries have adopted a version of Sir Geoffrey Howe's medium-term financial strategy. They have also recommended it - via the

banks and the International Monetary Fund - to other countries, from Brazil to Holland, not privileged to sit round the summit table.

Yet the Williamsburg communiqué remains a more intriguing and unpredictable economic document than the Conservative Party manifesto.

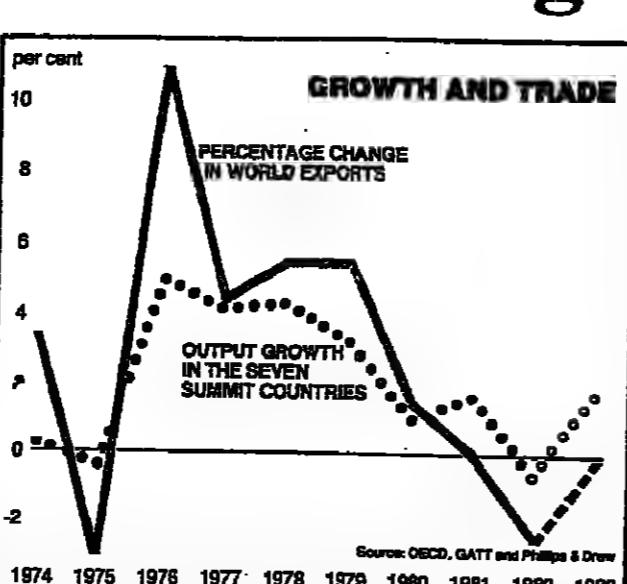
The summit had been unlike any other in its build-up. Instead of mere arguments about what one or other country should do, it faced an agenda for joint agreement to reform the international financial system, beyond the scope of national action even by the United States.

The debt crisis, backdrop protection, wildly fluctuating interest and exchange rates, all the detritus of recession, could slow down recovery by inhibiting investment in advanced countries and keeping Third World markets depressed. Slow recovery would make no impact on unemployment or poverty and possibly abort the whole process after the first stage.

Figures as diverse as New Zealand's Mr Robert Muldoon, Japan's Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, ex-Chancellor Herr Helmut Schmidt and French leaders past and present formulated variously ambitious programmes to clear away the debt crisis.

Long before the summit, the possibilities of sterile debate on inflation versus sound money had disappeared in favour of a divide between international reformers and the American view that recovery would itself gather sufficient strength to sweep away these apparent obstacles.

The final communiqué addressed all these obstacles. Indeed, given a startling lack of specific pledges, it reads not unlike the eight guidelines set



out in advance by Herr Schmidt. It focuses on the need to cut interest rates and bring economic policies closer to stabilize the five main currencies; it expresses determination to halt the trend to protection and reverse it "as far as possible".

Only negotiations with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to stabilize oil prices and the so-called "new Bretton Woods" conference to establish semi-fixed exchange rates will firmly onto the back burner.

Yet this was enough to convert President Mitterrand, the most vocally sceptical summer, to the idea that these meetings are splendidly useful after all. So far, the facts

hardly support such optimism. The overvalued dollar has kept rising against most currencies other than the poll-boosted pound.

Interest rates in the United States have actually edged up. Yet the French have remained buoyant since their return to Paris to embark on another round of enforced austerity. There is, they are convinced, a change in the atmosphere, brought about by a belated but genuine American understanding of the need to shore up Third World trade and of the reality of the threats to world recovery.

But will this intangible change of atmosphere actually mean anything?

The dollar and US interest rates provide an early test. The dollar is strong for the usual reason, that the budget deficit is boosting money supply and interest rates. To reverse this in the short-term, the authorities

would have to say they were unconcerned about the money figures, or take other action to curb them, push against any rise in rates and act with the countries of the European Monetary System on the exchanges.

In practice, Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, has merely made a prepared speech saying that the "recent rapid growth of the M1 money supply is a serious concern. The money stock must not be allowed to go on expanding at its recent pace".

In the longer run there are also problems over interest rates. The US position is confused. For instance, Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary has opined that the budget deficit has little to do with high interest rates. The more general stance is that recovery will itself help cut rates, contrary to traditional thinking. Output will catch up with money. Cuts in unemployment will trim the budget. And inflationary expectations, which traditionally overhang interest rates for some time, will be swept away.

This might offer scope for joint action through the more regular planned consultations of the top five finance ministers and the managing director of the IMF. Coordinated moves to cut interest rates simultaneously as output curbs inflation might have little effect on money or foreign exchange markets, especially after the important expressions of confidence in recovery sent out by the summit.

Otherwise, the ministerial meetings to coordinate policy may start with some lean sessions. In the United States, the tax/welfare/defence impasse

between White House and Congress over the budget could continue until the presidential election.

Europe, has some way to go before economic growth passes the threshold - 3 to 4 per cent - where it might have some impact on unemployment, not only in Britain but also in deficit-ridden Italy and the Benelux countries.

The key issue in convergence remains whether an agreement to manage currencies within agreed bands would be the spur to more compatible economic policies or can only follow development.

Mr Nakasone has stressed that exchange rate fluctuations are behind protectionism and therefore shrinking world trade, which used to the biggest single stimulus to Third World development.

As yet, output growth has yet to pass the point at which it might again stimulate instead of depressing world trade. The volume of trade and commodity prices, along with interest rates remain the keys to unlocking the debt crisis outside the advanced industrial nations. Countries like Brazil and some oil producers still face sharp falls in activity.

Again, unemployment is vital. Regardless of economic progress, high unemployment will provide a spur to protectionist measures, which were growing up until the weekend of the summit. If ministers can hold the line despite unemployment, they might bridge that vital gap to sustained recovery.

As Britain and the United States lead recovery, then West Germany and Japan get moving later this year, there should be few doubts about a growing return to economic health, unemployment aside next year.

The problems will arise when the short-term cycle peaks, perhaps in 1985. Unless world trade and the finances of developing countries have been sorted out by then, the Williamsburg strategy will be sorely tested.

Financial notebook

Gossip that mars the City's image

sighted and a dangerous precedent.

While appreciating the need to maintain anonymity of individuals and firms with possible involvement in investigation, there seems little harm in identifying the name of the company whose dealings are being probed.

The exchange now merely gives the numbers of investigations. In the 12 months to March inquiries into abnormal price movements rose from 3,267 to 3,753. But the number eventually passed to the Department of Trade dropped from 21 to 18.

Whether this shows fewer cases of insider dealing or acute difficulty in gaining evidence for such a charge must be left to conjecture.

The Department of Trade issues no statistics at all. But it is generally believed that there are several dozen cases currently under investigation. This reluctance to discuss an issue which benefits a few at the expense of the majority must surely harm the City's reputation.

The last Parliamentary question requesting the number of cases under investigation was two years ago.

Assessing whether the City itself takes the legislation seriously is difficult. Preliminary investigations into share price movements are carried out by the Stock Exchange.

Their quotations committee decides whether the movement in the share prices was normal or information-inspired.

If they feel buying was heavier than would normally have been expected and that a *prima facie* case of insider dealing exists, the papers are passed to the Department of Trade.

But the Exchange has long since stopped making public statements on which inquiries have been passed to the D.T. The practice seems short.

Philip Robinson



Fairy tales can come true.

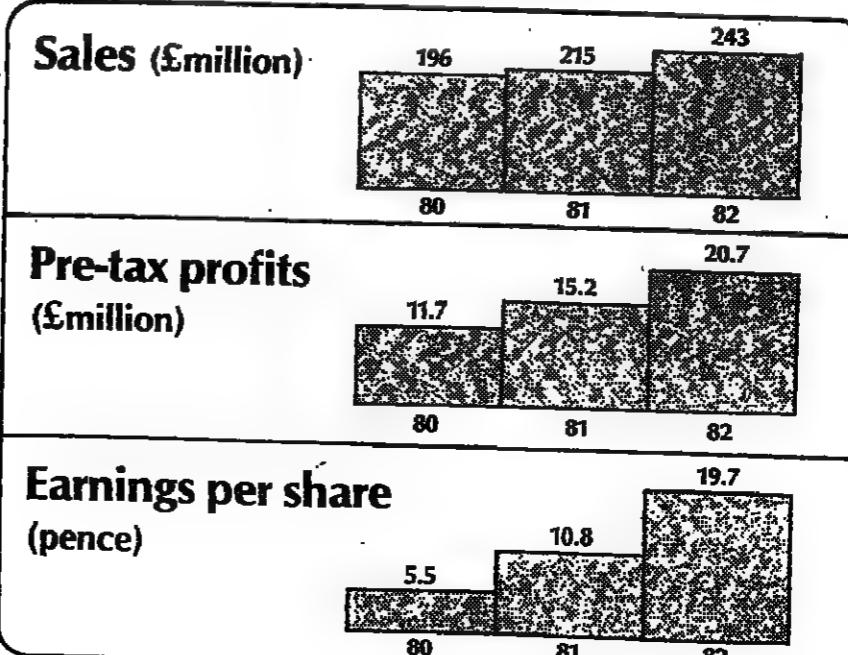
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The South African issue

Sporting boycott has reached limit of its effectiveness

DAVID MILLER

On a recent trip to South Africa to look at the extent of racial integration in sport and to discuss with many individuals, of all political persuasions, the question of the continuing international boycott, I went to dinner one evening with a prominent coloured Springbok sportsman and his wife.

We were staying at the same hotel in Cape Town, and a certain restaurant recommended a certain restaurant. Unwittingly, we entered a different one, where we were shown to a table by a young waiter and sat down. Two minutes later he returned and asked us to leave.

Why, I asked? Because the manager said we must. Why? Because the restaurant did not serve an international. Hence, why did not the manager tell us himself? He was busy. The waiter was increasingly embarrassed, the more so when I insisted we would not leave unless the manager gave an explanation - which he drudgingly did: a thicker, elderly boorish man who freely said he was hoping for a licence but right now resists because he has had several attorneys dining at another table.

Reexamination

As we left, politely saying we hoped he knew somewhere quiet to go if and when the evolution arrived, three other diners who had overheard the exchange said to me that I did not understand the problem, that it was difficult to explain. I said I agreed that any satisfactory explanation was indeed difficult.

Fortunately, that is not the end of the story. We crossed the street to another restaurant, where we had an excellent meal, with service and attention which would have been a credit to Claridges, and as we left the waiter and the proprietor, both white, were waiting to ask for the autograph of the man who, if the International Olympic Committee would relent, is capable of winning an Olympic medal. They had recognized him, and not only congratulated him, but invited him back "whenever you can come, and bring your friend."



whether the black coloured man can use the sporting platform to help create for his country a multiracial image such as Brazil's which will internationally dignify his ethnic race, expand his self-respect and prestige, while internally accelerating social and political changes already in motion and ensuring they are irreversible.

This view will be said by the committed forces of the left to be naive; that the non-white can never achieve dignity and prestige while he is denied, outside sport, so many freedoms. To which one can only answer that other than by the bullet and the bomb the changes which the outside world, and liberal South African whites, demand for that country can only be achieved by evolutionary degrees; that the external sporting boycott has now reached the *absolute limit* of its political effectiveness and is about to become rapidly counter-productive in encouraging reactionary right-wing extremism by the Conservative and Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) opposition parties to the National (increasingly liberal) government.

Lip service

While it was apparent travelling to half a dozen different cities that some white still speak with forked tongue; that they pay lip service to integration without actually believing in it; that they now grudgingly acknowledge the inhumanities they could equally well have seen 25 years ago without the encouragement of external pressure, it is abundantly obvious too that double standards exist in the United Nations - backed left wing lobby which is determined that South Africa shall be excluded everywhere at all cost. What could be more hypocritical than the stand of the French government banning the rugby tour, while permitting the government supported Renault team to compete in the South African Grand Prix?

When I interviewed Hassan Howa, the former secretary of the South African Council of Sport and a militant opponent of the white South Africa contri-

bution of human rights as a counterbalance to the extremism of Eastern Europe, Central Africa and elsewhere, and they are vastly more successful in practice, for no other country is scrutinized to the same degree for sporting acceptance or rejection. Yet the outside world - the IOC which refuses to send a commission of investigation, having promised to do so if South Africa withdrew its request at the Baden-Baden congress for readmission - is not aware of the extent to which the present government is trying to move progressively on sport over the next five years, the majority of it to the benefit of non-whites - a practical demonstration of the shift in ideology which lies behind the projected presidential council embracing coloured and Asian prime ministers under an executive president.

Dr Danie Craven, for almost 30 years the leader of South African rugby, has survived attempts by the secret Broderbund society to dominate rugby, because his international contacts became crucial after isolation - though the Broderbund still attempt to influence the choice of captain. Craven, who personally apologized to Basil d'Olivera when he was banned by Prime Minister Vorster, has battled to embrace all races in rugby.

A white Stellenbosch University-educated economist said to me on a flight from Durban: "We on the liberal, middle ground would like the government to have moved much farther and faster, but had they done so, the reaction from the extreme right would have become dangerous. One of these days, the black man is going to run this country."

It is stretching credibility to suppose that they are all deeply and sincerely concerned with the welfare of the Johannesburg diamond mine dormitory dwelling labour who sees his family in his homeland for a few weeks in the year, or with the one black child who dies of malnutrition every 15 minutes. Though I grant them the possibility that they may be.

There is unfortunately no chance, now and in the future, to separate sport and politics. It suits the political left to focus on white South Africa contra-

ry, but the total number of countries represented has gone up from 25 to 29. The best-known names who have already informed me they will not be coming over are the Americans, Bruce Lietke, Andy North and Lou Graham, and the Japanese, Isao Aoki.

Peter McEvoy has the chance to re-establish his high standing after a period of indifferent form when he plays for England in the European men's amateur team championship at Chantilly, June 22 to 26.

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Survived

The Pretoria Council may have closed the city parks in the worst imaginable piece of public relations, but the fact is that South Africa has had black presidents in its non-racial football and cricket administrations, a black vice-president in athletics, which is rather more than you can imagine happening in England for some years to come. The Botha government is committed to spending £300m

on sport over the next five years, the majority of it to the benefit of non-whites - a practical demonstration of the shift in ideology which lies behind the projected presidential council embracing coloured and Asian prime ministers under an executive president.

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But Craven believes the onus is now on England to rationalize world opinion on South African sport, if all the changes that have been made to the advantage of the non-white are not to be wasted. "We in sport have thrown open all the doors, fought our government and now the people who should be on our side are fighting against us. If I let my emotions out, I would hate England for the way she has treated me, but I'm proud of my English background. Everywhere I go, people are waiting for England to live up to the lead, but they won't wait for ever. The English influence is still there, but where is the leadership?"

Tomorrow: The SACOS case for isolation, and the answer.

Warren insists he is still in charge

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

No matter where Joe Bugner goes in the next 18 months he will find, like it or not, Frank Warren. But the standing by to collect his 25 per cent share of his manager, Eddie Frazier, in Atlantic City on Saturday without his manager's permission, and has not told him where he plans to go, has not helped Warren maintain: "I'm still his manager. And where he fights I will lodge my contract with the commission of that place." Bugner may find Warren sticking closer to him over the 18 months the contract still has to run than young Frazier did over 10 rounds.

But Warren insisted that it was not the 25 per cent that mattered so much as his principle. He said that if he let Bugner get away with straining his contract other boxers could get ideas and then follow too. Ray Clarke, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, concurred: "We would lose all our fighters in 12 months."

Warren was in the United States to fix up bouts for his other top boxers, Roy Gumbel and Keith Wallace, who challenge for the European title on June 17.

Gumbel's bout had been arranged. Warren claimed, by Bugner's wife Marlene who, according to Warren, had no standing with either the British board or the New Jersey State Athletic Commission under whose auspices the Atlantic City bout was held. "The two fights go to Marlene and Eddie Frazier," Warren said. "He had no business taking on this up and coming young fighter. Now who wants to know about Bugner? It just goes to prove that amateurs should not be allowed to make fights. It is extremely dangerous for the well-being of the boxer."

Of his purse of \$75,000 Bugner has \$31,000 left. The Federal Government has taken \$23,000. \$18,000 has been withheld by the New Jersey commission pending an inquiry in two weeks' time, and \$3,000 has gone in training expenses.

GOLF

Opening for Parkin

A total of 1,107 players, slightly fewer than last year, have entered next month's Open championship at Royal Birkdale. The retiring Royal Amateur secretary, Keith Macleod, has described the field as "the highest quality ever seen in Britain."

The number of players exempt from qualifying is 70, including the newly-crowned Amateur champion, Philip Parkin, and the winner of the US Open later this month. Another 10 could come from the State Express Classic at the Belfry in the week before the Open.

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Taylor Scott Associates Limited, County House, 10 Little Portland Street, London, W1N 5DF. Tel. 01-580 4738.

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West End c £8,000 p.a.

A major trading company with interests in metals, chemicals, grains, oil and fertilizer needs a well-trained secretary to provide a support function for two trading executives. Sound shorthand and typing skills are essential, as is the ability to use your initiative.

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Applicants should submit a comprehensive CV and also advise either a day or night telephone contact number.

S. N. Burden, Grey Advertising Ltd., 215-227 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5HD

List separately companies to whom your application should not be forwarded. All replies will be dealt with in strict confidence.

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ATTENDANT SECRETARIAL

AGENCY

In the third of a series of interviews with the four party leaders, Julian Haviland, Political Editor, talks to Margaret Thatcher about her hopes for a second term

Mrs Thatcher: Exhilarated by the campaign

Are you exhilarated by campaigning, or is it a strain?

When I am out on a campaign trail, yes, I am exhilarated by it. Nevertheless it seems to be quite a long campaign, because my mind cannot help addressing itself to the longer term problems and yet I have to discipline myself and say, no, you must not count your chickens.

It is really quite a tussle, because by nature I like to have everything prepared. I would like to have made decisions today that I know I have to make at the weekend, but unless I get it right on Thursday, I won't be able to make those decisions, so you see the constant tussle.

If you are reelected tomorrow, will it be on promise or performance?

I think it will be because people voted for us last time to take a different direction, and they are endorsing that because they know what we are doing is fundamentally sound. They believe that, given time, it will work. So it is a combination of both.

If the electors' hope is betrayed, would you expect retribution in 1987 or 1988?

I do not believe their hope will be betrayed. I think the other way we were going led to the relative decline of this country. We are now starting to compete and I am sure the way we are going is the way to go.

When you tell a television interviewer not to stop you because you are in "full flood", is that because you are excited, or a little overbearing, or what?

No, he (Brian Walden on *Weekend World*) asked me a question about our strategy for jobs. That is crucial to the whole election, and I most certainly was not going to give only half an answer, and the advertisers had to wait.

Now you have done the job, are you more confident of your capacity than you were in your 1979 campaign?

Yes. Is there an issue above all on which this election has turned?

'Oh, I have lots of human weaknesses.'

Your manifesto claims that the Government is "straightforward and resolute". But are you so resolute? When you face awkward decisions like whether to hold a general election you either like most of us, don't you?

No. Once we decided to have an election we set everything in train extremely quickly. I told interviewers at the new year who asked if this was election year: "I shall not think about it until after I have been in for four years."

I thought voters might be reassured to know you have a human weakness or two.

Oh I have got lots, lots of human weaknesses who hasn't?

When you talk of willingness to contemplate the use of weapons such as Polaris, is it enough for a Prime Minister to be resolute, patriotic, hostile to the Soviet system? Or does she need subtlety, and flexibility, and wisdom in judging an adversary's real intentions?

Today's events

Royal Engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh give a reception at Buckingham Palace for the World Cup Cricket team.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chancellor, visits Cambridge University for two days, arriving 3.15.

The Prince of Wales attends the launch of the Conservation Developments Programme for the United Kingdom at Logan Hall, London University, 20 Bedford Way, WC1, 10.

Princess Anne dines with the Prince Warden and the Court of the

New exhibitions

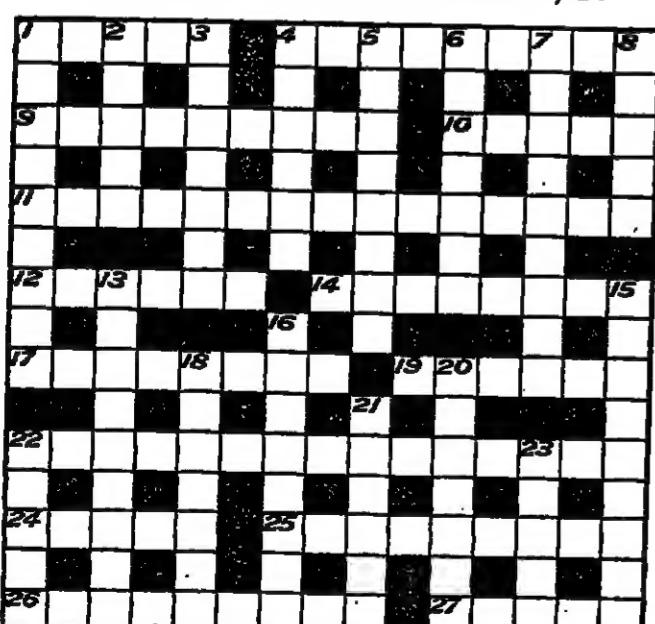
Fishmongers' Company at Fishmongers' Hall, 7.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Gloucestershire Regiment, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, attends the Beating of Retreat by massed bands of the Regiments of the Prince of Wales' Division, Horse Guards Parade, 6.30.

The Duke of Kent visits the Courage Brewery at Reading 11.30, and opens the Reading Information Technology Centre, 12.20.

Princess Alexandra visits the headquarters of the Royal group of companies, Wemlock Road, N1, 2.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,150



Solutions of Puzzle No 16,149

ACROSS
1 West's partner rather than North's returned diamond, say (5).
4 Edgar's men destroyed force across the Channel (9).
9 Clothe has nothing to say about a suit (9).
10 Only a suitor wants this money (5).
11 Provide spanner for game (9, 6).
12 Still unemployed - receiving attention (2, 4).
14 Girl followed by pet was Charles's sister (4, 4).
17 Glutton's last third of 11 (4-4).
19 Played without breaking limb at 22 ac (6).
22 Vice not dominant for long (6, 2, 7).
24 Father or son going to the White House architects (5).
25 Following two points to argue foolishly (9).
26 Old elements in strong spirit (4-5).
27 Decayed leaves, etc, smell bad to us (5).

DOWN
1 Member of fencing school? (9).
2 Cricket side with spinner, in addition (2, 3).
3 Le's specify what makes it non-U (7).
4 Walks
Portsea and Dockyard, meet Victory Gate, HM Naval Base, Portsea, 2.30.

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12



Photograph: Bill Warhurst

I think defence has played a bigger part than in any other election I remember, and I think it is the general handling of the economy. I think the question there is do you go for the magic cure, which you know will not cure, and is not magic, and does not exist, or do you address yourself to the fundamental problems which in your heart of hearts you know you ought to have addressed yourself to years ago. That, I think, is why we are winning.

If Labour is crushed tomorrow, what effect do you think that will have on our national life?

I think it would lead to the kind of reform of the Labour Party which Gaitskell wanted to pursue, and that would be very much better for everyone, in my view - it is not my party, but in my view - because state socialism is totally alien to the British character.

'Oh, I have lots of human weaknesses.'

I think you always need subtlety and wisdom. You need to look at the facts. The facts are that Andropov has been head of the KGB; that the Soviet Union has had mounting expenditure on its defence system; has deprived its people of sufficient food and consumer goods to have mounting defence. It has mounting naval strength and submarine strength and nuclear strength.

I happen to believe that you are more likely to negotiate disarmament from strength than from weakness; more likely to be able to take a constructive but unbending view of the Soviet Union on other matters - trade, travel, being able to get people out - if you are strong. Strength is more likely to get disarmament on both sides.

Do you believe there will be progress towards controlled disarmament?

Yes I do. One of the things they (the Soviet Union) are waiting for is the result of this election. Chancellor Kohl's was a crucial election for the whole Western alliance. I think once he (Mr Andropov) knows he has got a strong President Mitterrand, a strong Chancellor Kohl, a strong government here, he is much, much more likely to move.

You have asked for a large majority. Do you find yourself becoming impatient, as your opponents allege, with the democratic constraints on a Prime Minister's great power?

No, I do not find myself becoming impatient in any way, I am a democrat. I am here only by virtue and power of the ballot. Obviously I want maximum support for my policies. Who does

not? Of course. But I want it the only way: from the ballot box.

If the electors decide in their wisdom that you should have an adequate majority for a full parliament, but no more than adequate, you will not think that unreasonable?

I have to accept the decision of the ballot box. The important thing is that the ballot box continues. I have to accept whatever is their decision. I naturally hope and want as big a support for my policies as I can, possibly get, because I believe they are right, and because I think that for the world to know that I have large support means also that Britain rejects totally the kind of state socialism that has been put forward.

6 As big a majority as I can possibly get?

Will there be much room in your Cabinet for new appointments?

Oh, it is always one of the very difficult questions that, you know. It is the worst thing that a prime minister has to do. Everyone says you must get in so-and-so and so-and-so, and so-and-so. Now tell me, who am I going to put out? You always have to keep the thing on the move, you have to, because your young people are entitled to feel that when they perform well they have some hope of being promoted.

But it is very very difficult, and you explain to people 'look, it isn't that you have done things wrong.

but I just have to make room, and aren't you fortunate in a way to have had the privilege of being in government for a time? It is the most difficult thing I have to do, but it has to be done, and I have to screw myself up to do it.

But you have decided on your new appointments, haven't you?

No I have not. This again is my not counting chickens. But it will not take me long to make up my mind when I face it. And always, always you must understand - I am painted as the greatest little dictator, which is ridiculous - you always take some consultations.

One thing that has got to be known quickly is the name of the new Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor. Is that right?

I am not sure, because last time the majority did not come through until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon - 317 seats - and obviously I was not going to move until I knew that we had an actual majority. Now I don't know when the majority would come through this time. I am not sure whether we go to the Palace or not. I think in the past Mr Wilson and Mr Macmillan did not. But I don't know, we'll have to decide that at the time. But then, immediately one got some of one's senior colleagues here to consult, and then we started the next day. But don't forget that next day is Trooping the Colour, so I am not sure at the moment when it would be best to do any Cabinet changes. But we don't count chickens.

Has it crossed your mind that you may lose?

Yes it has crossed my mind, but it has only just flitted through it.

Tomorrow: Roy Jenkins

Frank Johnson's campaign trail

Festive greetings from Humpty Dumpty

Tomorrow the final day, will have to be spent with the Prime Minister. Yesterday, on the penultimate day, what could there possibly be left to see or hear? Labour's morning press conference? It announced the findings of the latest Healey Poll. This showed that Labour would win the election. Giving the details, Mr Denis Healey said that the polls in the national newspapers did not tally with those carried out in individual constituencies by regional newspapers, and by Labour's private pollsters.

One assumed him to be an obscure trade unionist. Whoever he was, he would be walking about in Repton, it said. Perhaps he was just doing his shopping. If not, let us hope that the Repton police had no difficulty in identifying the Boddy.

No, it was time to seek solace in this ever-changing world by rejoining the campaign of Mr Roy Jenkins. He was last seen in this space at the start of the campaign, charming the female shoppers in Peterborough.

Yesterday, we caught up with him charming the female shoppers in Guildford. Assuming that they were not the same female shoppers being used around the country by the SDP, Mr Jenkins is now even more admired by female shoppers.

I am not persuaded that Mr Jenkins's comfortable campaign style has been a handicap to the Alliance. He has that element of self-parody always present in truly serious people.

It is a little lacking in Mr Steel. It is there in Mrs Thatcher, much of her "bossiness" being attributable to it. People recognise it immediately in a politician and like it, for it creates a character.

Yesterday a large, fat chef, with a bushy beard and a chef's hat, stalked across the street at Farnham to ask Mr Jenkins to lift the value-added tax on restaurants, conscious perhaps that this politician was a trenchman of international class who had eaten for England in the gastronomic capital of Europe, Brussels.

"I like big men in small businesses," beamed Mr Jenkins. The chef thought him an extremely good sort.

Mr Jenkins put his fine through the window of a car in a traffic jam. Having that familiar, agreeable, Humpty Dumpty head suddenly in your vehicle, must have been unnerving at first.

But the two occupants and Mr Jenkins got on very well because all three turned out to be Welsh. What did he say? I asked the woman in the passenger seat. "Merry Christmas and happy New Year," she said.

This seemed odd. But she quoted Mr Jenkins as saying that these were among the few words he knew in Welsh.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

A Collection of Rarities Writings from the 17th Century, edited by Nigel Smith, foreword by John Carey (Junction, £12.50)

Ancient Evenings, by Norman Mailer (Macmillan, £22.50)

County Durham, by Nicholas Pevsner, revised by Elizabeth Williamson, Buildings of England (Penguin, £14.95)

Henry Herdman and Owen Crisp (Oxford, £16.50)

Mr George Eliot, A Biography of George Henry Lewes, by David Williams (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.50)

Napoleon, Abel Gance's classic film, by Kevin Brownlow (Cape, £10.95)

Home's North West Frontier, the Antonine Wall, by William Hanson & Gordon Marshall (Edinburgh, £17.50)

South African Immigration guide, by Peter Harrison (Groombridge, £1.95)

The Facts of Life and other fictions, by Robert Nye (Hansom Hamilton, £7.95)

West Country Fly Fishing, an anthology edited by Anne Vose (Batsford, £9.95)

Principles of Geology, by Charles Lyell (Oxford University Press, £12.50)

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